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Inter-Arab Affairs

KUNA on Participants in Arab Maghreb Summit

LD2308215389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1010 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, Aug 23 (KUNA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali will leave on August 31 for Tripoli, Libya, leading his country's delegation to the Arab Maghreb Summit Union Conference.

The leaders of the five Arab Maghreb states, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania will participate also in the 20th anniversary of the First of September Revolution celebrations of Libya.

Reliable Tunisian sources said that the UMA [Arab Maghreb Union] summit will review a number of issues concerning joint cooperation among the union states in various domains of political, economic, social and information levels, that submitted by the concerned committees.

The sources added that the summit will also review latest developments in the international and Arab arenas, particularly the Palestinian question and the Lebanese crisis.

The leaders of the five Arab Maghreb states agreed to hold the summit in response to the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's invitation.

Mauritania did not announce its agreement to attend such a summit yet.

Meanwhile, press reports published here today indicated that the Libyan Ambassador here 'Abd-al-Ati al-Ubaydi has handed to his Egyptian counterpart 'Ali Mahir an official invitation from Al-Qadhdhafi to the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to visit Libya during that Arab country's celebrations.

ACC Justice Ministers Begin Baghdad Meetings

JN2308121489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The first meeting of the justice ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] began in Baghdad this morning. The meetings will last 2 days.

During the first session, the justice ministers discussed the paragraph on the agenda which stipulates the unification of the legal and judicial legislations and systems. The session also focused on the need for steady, firm, and courageous endeavors to unify conventional legislations in the ACC countries such as the civil law, the civil status law, and the penal code; the unification of legislation procedures such as penal procedures and civil proceedings; and the unification of the judicial and legal systems such as the real estate registration law, the care of minors and juveniles. The justice ministers also discussed the subject of public notaries. [passage omitted]

ACC Ministerial Council's Meetings Postponed

JN2308194389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] INA has learned that the meetings of the Ministerial Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] scheduled to be held the day after tomorrow, Friday, [25 August] have been postponed to 16 September.

The meetings were postponed to provide greater opportunities for further preparations and study of the topics on the agenda of the Ministerial Council meetings.

INA also learned that the new date fixed for the meetings of the Ministerial Council will not affect the date fixed for the meeting of the ACC Supreme Council, which is scheduled to be held in Sanaa at the end of September.

Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf Announces End to Meetings With Israelis

JN2308195989 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1824 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has said that the PLO has decided to stop holding meetings with Israeli officials in order to show that the Palestine question cannot be resolved through negotiations with Palestinian citizens from the occupied territories only. In a radio interview in Paris yesterday, Abu-Iyad added that the PLO made this decision following statements made by the U.S. delegation to the dialogue with the PLO in Tunis in which it said that negotiations regarding a solution to the Palestine question can be held only with Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Brother Abu-Iyad criticized the United States strongly for considering the Palestinians in the occupied territories as the entire Palestinian people, thus ignoring 4 million Palestinians living abroad.

Further on Khalaf Remarks

LD2308211789 Rabat MAP in English 1253 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Paris, Aug. 23, (MAP)—A leading Palestinian figure Tuesday [22 August] told Radio France Internationale the PLO has decided to "stop meetings with Israel."

Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad), Central Committee member of "Fatah" (mainstream movement within the PLO) told the radio the decision sought to make clear that no solution to the Palestinian question could be reached through negotiations with Palestinians of the occupied territories alone.

He said "following statements by the American delegation (in charge of dialogue with the PLO in Tunis) saying a solution (to the Palestinian question) could only be

negotiated with Palestinians inside (the occupied territories), we decided to stop Israeli-Palestinian contact so they would not be misunderstood."

Abu-Iyad strongly criticized the U.S. for whom, he said, "one and a half million Palestinians inside (the occupied territories) represent all the Palestinian people while the four million outside have nothing to do with a settlement to the Palestinian problem".

The United States, which had started a "substantial dialogue" with the PLO last December, want that the PLO consent that only personalities from within the occupied territories negotiate with Israel the organization of elections in the Palestinian Bank (former West Bank) and Gaza Strip.

Urges Lebanon Committee To Meet

LD2308220989 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Abu-Iyad [Salah Kahaf] appealed to the higher tripartite Arab committee in charge of finding a settlement to the Lebanese crisis to resume its efforts in order to save Lebanon. His appeal is due to the position and importance of the countries constituting this committee and the fact that it represents all Arabs who chose it during their recent Arab summit in Casablanca.

In an interview published by a Qatari paper, Abu-Iyad called for a cease-fire in Lebanon to save this country from destruction. He stressed that what is taking place in the Lebanese arena is a tragedy for all Arabs and that the sole beneficiary are the Zionists. The loser is the Palestinian intifidah [uprising] inside the occupied land.

Assails U.S Attitude Toward PLO

LD2308221989 Rabat MAP in English 1225 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Doha, Aug 23 (MAP)—The latest round of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has not reached any results, said member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement, mainstream of the PLO, Salah Khalaf, codenamed Abu-Iyad, pointing out that Americans want to make of the PLO a mere intermediary that would consent to say that the Palestinian people is that living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip... and that the four million and half Palestinians living outside the occupied territories must become citizens of the countries they are settled in. [sentence as received]

In an interview Tuesday with the Qatari daily "ACHARQ" [name as received], Salah Khalaf said the Americans want us to tell the Palestinians, "accept autonomy under Israeli occupation" and threatened to sever dialogue with the PLO if it does not accept their conditions. He added that the Palestinians are not begging their independence and that they will struggle by all means for what they want is an independent Palestinian state.

But despite the U.S. attitude, he said, the PLO will not take the initiative to sever dialogue with the United States.

AL-ITTIHAD on 'Arafat's Talks in Amman

JN2408100089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 22 Aug 89 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Amman, Cairo, Tunis, AL-ITTIHAD—Jordanian circles appear satisfied with the outcome of the talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Palestinian sources have said that the meetings between King Husayn of Jordan and the Palestinian president resolved the differences and the issue of the U.S. conditions imposed on the PLO to play a role in boosting the peace process, conditions that were made during the latest meeting between the PLO and the U.S. ambassador in Tunis. The sources said that during the tripartite meeting in Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn mediated between 'Arafat and King Husayn to settle their outstanding issues.

The sources revealed that the Palestinian president asked the Jordanian king to restore ties and to return to the Amman agreement. The sources also revealed that Washington has set impossible conditions on the PLO for it to boost the peace process. In the Jordanian capital, reports have been circulating about two Palestinian figures—Hikmat al-Masri and Tahsin al-Faris—conveying an Israeli viewpoint to 'Arafat during their 90-minute meeting with him yesterday. Both are known for their enthusiasm for accelerating the settlement plan.

Palestinian sources in Cairo expect the Egyptian capital to witness a broad and important meeting between a number of Palestinian figures from the occupied territories and a PLO delegation, which may even include the Palestinian president himself, to discuss a number of political issues related to the Israeli elections plan.

The sources said that a number of those figures—including Ibrahim al-Qara'in from Jerusalem, Fayiz al-Qawasimi from Hebron, 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Darawshah, and Dr Hatim Abu-Ghazalah—have actually arrived in Cairo.

The sources pointed out that the new Palestinian direction toward Jordan came after the PLO became burdened with issues of education, exports, and job opportunities in the West Bank and Gaza following the disengagement. It also came after the explosive situation in the Lebanese arena and the failure of the tripartite committee to produce results, and the PLO's fear of European and U.S. attention being diverted from the intifadah [uprising] to Lebanon.

At the same time, the PLO is worried about intelligence information reaching it from inside the Israeli entity on Israel's intention to launch a lightning military campaign against Jordan to attack a reported presence of an Iraqi force in Jordan.

The Palestinian sources confirmed to AL-ITTIHAD that in Baghdad the Jordanian monarch received a request from Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to return to the Amman agreement. Abu-'Ammar also demanded a Jordanian retreat from the disengagement in response to a Palestinian request.

The sources say King Husayn had reservations about those two Palestinian requests. Instead, he offered 'Arafat another proposal, namely to reactivate the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee, whereby the disengagement resolutions can be revoked quietly and without any new shocks. King Husayn also demanded readherence to the international conference formula and the formation of an Arab committee comprising a number states, which Jordan will agree to join, in order to activate the settlement plan.

The sources said 'Arafat asked King Husayn to intercede with the U.S. Administration to accept the European initiative which aims to bring the U.S. viewpoint on the international conference in line with that of King Husayn.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the conditions which the U.S. Administration have presented to the PLO have been described as impossible to meet, especially with regard to naming the members of the Palestinian delegation to participate in the first session of talks between Israel and the PLO under U.S.-Egyptian sponsorship. The U.S. Administration has insisted that the Palestinian delegation must be entirely from the West Bank and Gaza, and that PLO members should be excluded. Meanwhile, the PLO has insisted "or demanded" that the meeting must be attended by two PLO members as observers; namely, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Muhammad Milhim.

The talks reached a deadlock when the U.S. ambassador in Tunis insisted on rejecting all PLO reservations on the Israeli elections plan in the West Bank and Gaza. The PLO demanded that the United States issue an open or an official political statement announcing that it does not fully sponsor the Shamir concept.

The U.S. ambassador communicated a third condition that the Israeli Labor party will not support negotiations with the PLO under any formula unless the PLO declares beforehand that it will abandon the independent Palestinian state plan. The ambassador said that sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza must belong to Jordan while maintaining a theoretical formula satisfactory to Palestinians.

The ambassador told the PLO that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, America's strong man in Israel, submitted, during the last Labor Party meeting a paper to this effect, which was adopted with an absolute majority.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Rabin's paper gave justifications for the settlement and its horizons and the need to go ahead with it via the national coalition government. The paper indicated that the Labor Party wasted a big opportunity before the intifadah [uprising] when Jordan and the PLO were ready to join the settlement process on the basis of the Amman agreement.

Rabin called attention to the dangers of the continuation of the intifadah and the Israeli army's inability to end it through bloodshed because that would destroy Israel's international reputation, as he said. [passage omitted]

Jordan's Stability Said Prime PLO Aim

JN2408093689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0835 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Aug (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan has praised the outcome of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan and Jordan's position on the Palestine question. He stressed that maintaining Jordan and its regime is a PLO strategic aim.

In a statement published today by the Kuwaiti AL-ANBA' newspaper, Al-Hasan expressed the belief that relations between Jordan and Palestine "must be strategic as dictated by geography and demography." He said the crises that the bilateral relations had witnessed every now and then in the past were of a temporary nature.

He stressed the need for creating an organic relationship between Palestine and Jordan "similar to one's relationship with oneself, not with someone else." This is especially important because the Zionist enemy is persistently acting toward converting the East Bank of the Jordan River into an alternative homeland for the Palestinians, Al-Hasan added.

"Maintaining Jordan and its regime is a top PLO strategy," he stressed. He added that harm to Jordan affects the Palestine question as well, because Jordan's relationship with Palestine is inseparable.

Al-Hasan on Egypt's Conditions for Elections

JN2308163689 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 22 Aug 89 p 26

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan has denied that the PLO had prior knowledge about the conditions which Egypt had reportedly set to hold elections in the occupied Palestinian territory. In a statement to AL-ANBA', Abu-al-Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan] strongly denied the PLO has coordinated with Egypt vis-a-vis these conditions. The Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ said U.S. congressmen presented these conditions to Israeli officials after their meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo.

Khalid al-Hasan also denied that any Palestinian official has visited Washington. He said: "As far as I know, no Palestinian official has recently visited the United States."

Abu-al-Sa'id said "the 10 conditions set by Egypt aim at guaranteeing the freedom of elections which are taken into consideration by the Americans. The Israeli Labor Party led by Shim'on Peres expressed semi-agreement on these conditions and the Likud expressed its conviction that they could be studied. Meanwhile, the PLO is closely monitoring the situation to see where things will go."

It is noteworthy that the 10 Egyptian conditions focus on a number of detailed issues related to the Palestine question. Egypt has set these conditions in exchange for its agreement on holding elections in the occupied territory. The conditions are as follows:

1) Freezing the settlements.
2) Withdrawal of the Israeli army from the areas where elections will be conducted.
3) Preventing the Israelis from entering the occupied territory on the election day.
4) Participation of the Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem in the elections as voters.
5) Guaranteeing absolute freedom of election campaigns.
6) Supervision by external observers over the elections.
7) Israel's advance abidance by the results.
8) Making guarantees that no harm will be done to those elected.
9) Israel's announcement on its agreement on Resolutions 242 and 338.
10) Guaranteeing the security of all regional states as well as "the political rights" of the Palestinians.

THE NEW YORK TIMES said on 15 August that the United States has supported the Egyptian working paper which contained the 10 conditions. The newspaper notes that Dr Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's political adviser, visited New York 2 weeks ago for this purpose. A senior [Egyptian] official also visited Washington to discuss these proposals.

In another development, Khalid al-Hasan denied what has been published in a Gulf paper recently on the PLO's intention to form a provisional government at the present time. He stressed that this issue was not discussed at any level.

PPSF Condemns Naval Concentration off Lebanon

JN2308152789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus, 23 Aug (SANA)—The Palestine Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has condemned the rallying of Western fleets off the Lebanese coast. It considers this a threat to the Arab nation as part of internationalizing the Lebanese crisis.

Citing a spokesman on its behalf, the PPSF today called on France not to be biased toward one Lebanese side and not to be dragged into any military adventure which might lead the region to greater tensions and explosions.

The PPSF spokesman called for contributing toward safeguarding Lebanon's unity, Arab identity, independence, and democratic development to pave the way ahead of internationalization attempts, which serve the projects of partition and fragmentation.

Al-Fahum Interviewed on 'Arafat, Syria

JN1208152889 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 10 Aug 89 p 25

[Interview with Khalid al-Fahum, former speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and chairman of the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), by Sulayman al-Hakim in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Hakim] Reports have been circulated about a close meeting between PLO and Syrian officials. What do you expect from such meetings, and how will they affect the march of the Palestine question now and in the future?

[Al-Fahum] President al-Asad met brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] twice during the recent summit in Casablanca, and both meetings were held in a friendly and frank atmosphere. The difference between the two men is not personal, but concerns some political issues and questions. We find Shamir getting more intransigent with regard to the steps made by the PLO—as is the Likud, whose positions became very audacious.

Therefore, despite the fact that there were many of them, these concessions did not give us anything except some moral support from West European states, and the dialogue with the United States, which is mere dialogue and not negotiations. Our cause is still rejected and the minimum level of our rights is still unanswered by Israel. Therefore, I say the difference between President al-Asad and brother 'Arafat was over the concessions. I believe no Palestinian should offer concessions unless the other side meets him halfway. Concessions by one side alone will weaken the Palestinian position and the Palestinian negotiator. In spite of this, I believe there is not any estrangement between us and brother 'Arafat and that understanding is possible at any moment.

'Arafat was supposed to visit Syria on 9 May together with the Algerian foreign minister. We, and the brothers in Syria, were waiting for the delegation members, whose names were actually sent. However, they did not come, and no apology was sent.

Anyway, and according to my information, Syria's door is open for them whenever they want to come. Therefore, I say that any moves are now up to the Palestinian, not the Syrian, side.

[Al-Hakim] Will you meet 'Arafat when he comes to Syria?

[Al-Fahum] 'Arafat came to Syria to attend the funeral of Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu-Jihad. He stayed for 1 or 2 nights, and I did not meet him because we were all busy during the time of mourning we were passing through.

[Al-Hakim] Do you have any conditions to return to the PNC or to work with the PLO under 'Arafat's command?

[Al-Fahum] First of all, I am still a member of the PNC. My failure to attend the recent PNC sessions does not cancel my membership. Many members do not attend the sessions, and this is normal. As for my conditions, they are known. I am the PNC speaker, and I took the oath to preserve the PNC resolutions and the [Palestine National] Charter until the PNC changes them. I believe we must adhere to the laws regulating national action so that violating laws will not become the norm and therefore, that chaos will not spread and individualism and self-interest will not prevail. I also differ with 'Arafat over the many steps he offered. These I specify as follows:

First, he recognized Israel's right to exist without obtaining in exchange recognition from Israel of the Palestinian people's rights—neither their right to a state nor to self-determination. He did not even obtain recognition of the PLO, and the Israeli No's in this regard are famous.

Second, 'Arafat made a statement about the Palestine National Charter whereby he deemed the Palestine National Charter obsolete or superseded by events. The charter was drawn up by the Palestinian people in 1964, when neither the West Bank nor Gaza were under occupation. There is an article in the charter that rules out amendment except by a two-thirds majority of votes. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] not only amended the charter; he scrapped it altogether. No individual in the Palestinian action arena has the mandate to do that. This is another point of contention with 'Arafat.

Third, I would like relations betweeen the Palestinian revolution and the Syrian brothers to be good, given that Syria and Egypt have a distinct bearing on Palestine and the Palestinians and their cause. No other Arab country can claim such a distinction in light of the fact that both are Frontline States. Besides, the Syrian and Egyptian peoples have made many sacrifices on behalf of the Palestinian cause. Relations with Syria mean the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Severing ties with Syria, on the other hand, means self-rule, which our Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine have rejected. These are the points on which we disagree with Abu-'Ammar. These differences need not last forever. I am positive that sometime soon, maybe in 6 months or so, 'Arafat will come around to my point of view, especially given that recent developments have only led to more arrogance and oppression by Israel leading to further repression of our people in the occcupied land.

[Al-Hakim] What if 'Arafat stayed his course and did not arrive at this conviction?

[Al-Fahum] If he should continue on the same road, he will find Israel unresponsive. The United States will remain biased toward Israel. Washington will not and cannot impose anything on Israel that Israel does not want. The United States counts on Israel as a regional ally. A while back, the Likud imposed some restrictions on Shamir's initiative, which we reject anyway. This shows that 'Arafat's steps bring us further Israeli obstinacy and arrogance. Add to that the fact that short of national unity, we remain emasculated and weak.

[Al-Hakim] The last PNC session in Algiers endorsed UN Resolution 181 on partition [of Palestine]. How do you view that?

[Al-Fahum] The PNC resolutions are clear. We want self-determination, repatriation, and an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil or part of it—any part evacuated by Israel. It may strike you as strange that at the Casablanca summit they did not endorse UN Resolution 181 but accepted Resolutions 242 and 338, which are less favorable than Resolution 181. Acceptance or nonacceptance of Resolution 181 is tied to a strategy. We would be making a mistake to accept implementation of the partition resolution as a definitive solution to our problem. If, however, we accepted it as a short-term step down the road to a Palestinian state in which Muslims, Christians, and Jews lived side by side enjoying the same rights and subject to the same obligations, there is nothing wrong with that.

[Al-Hakim] What is your opinion about the intifadah [uprising] now as a big factor in the equation?

[Al-Fahum] Without the valiant intifadah, our situation could have been even worse. At the Amman summit, which was held before the Algiers and Casablanca summits, the Palestine question was a secondary issue, and even less than that. This was the level of interest in the Palestine question, not only on the Arab level, but also on the international level. However, when the intifadah erupted in the occupied territories a few days after this summit, we found that the Arab and international interest in the Palestine question reached its peak. Before the intifadah, our Russian friends were equal to the enemies in the United States. Their interest in the Palestine question was marginal. The intifadah has restored to the Palestine question the rightful position it deserves at the top of the Arab and international interest, and it has gained the Palestinian people great respect among friendly and unfriendly circles. Europe's stand toward the Palestinian people is now much better than it was 3 years ago. The intifadah has enabled brother Yasir 'Arafat to visit several states, meet several leaders and officials, and speak with them with a stronger voice and enhanced authority. Therefore, we do not agree with Shamir's plan, because its major objective is to terminate the intifadah. The United States supports Shamir's plan to terminate the intifadah. This is unacceptable, for if

the intifadah were terminated, we would not have bargaining power. So, the intifadah is our capital and it must continue, and I am certain that it will continue.

[Al-Hakim] What do you think of the way 'Arafat deals with and exploits the intifadah?

[Al-Fahum] 'Arafat exploits the intifadah sometimes in the right direction and sometimes in the wrong direction. At the same time, I do not say that 'Arafat's positions toward the intifadah are all negative. He supports the intifadah financially, and without 'Arafat's financial support, it would not be able to continue its march, because revolutionaries need food in order to stand fast, and this 'Arafat extends to them. However, he has wasted this by exploiting the intifadah politically in the wrong direction.

[Al-Hakim] How do you envisage the future of the intifadah in light of varying Palestinian trends and opinions?

[Al-Fahum] The intifadah is continuing and will continue. Our kinfolk in the occupied territories want the closest possible ties with the Palestinians abroad, because the Palestinian people, inside the occupied territories and abroad, are one people.

I believe the intifadah will not accept any concessions, whoever makes them. It will not heed any person or party ordering it to stop. I am convinced brother 'Arafat will reconsider his steps when he realizes they harmed the intifadah and gave him nothing of significance from Israel or the United States.

[Al-Hakim] What are the goals pursued by the intifadah, after the realization of which it will stop?

[Al-Fahum] The aim of the intifadah is to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. This is a simple goal; the intifadah does not want to set complicated goals. The first aim is to end coexistence with Israel [inha' al-ta'ayush ma' Isra'il], reject occupation, and achieve the independence of the Palestinian land and life.

[Al-Hakim] Do you expect Shamir's plan to be implemented?

[Al-Fahum] Shamir's plan was stillborn. I do not expect it to be implemented, despite the amendments the United States is trying to introduce. Israel will not allow a Palestinian state, nor will it concede Jerusalem or recognize the PLO.

[Al-Hakim] Do you expect the Palestine question to be resolved if the Israeli Labor Party assumes power?

[Al-Fahum] First, we should know that the Labor Party, in its strategic aims, is no different than the Likud. It wants the entire Palestinian territories. The party's flexibility is part of its tactics; the strategy of the Labor and the Likud is one and the same thing. If some in the Labor Party are talking about withdrawal from the government and holding new elections, this shows the opportunistic nature of Shim'on Peres' policy. Even if the elections are held, Peres will not win because the right wing is still stronger than the Labor Party.

[Al-Hakim] Egyptian-Syrian relations are currently progressing. Will this affect the Palestine question? And how?

[Al-Fahum] Throughout history, Egyptian-Syrian relations have been strong, with the main strengthening factor being Palestine. Unity between Egypt and Syria has always been achieved for the sake of Palestine. This happened in ancient history—in the days of Saladin and the crusades—and in the contemporary age—during 'Abd-al-Nasir's days in the unity of 1958. This also happened during the Tartars invasion, the 'Ayn Jalut battle, the battles of 1948 and 1973, and other wars in which Syria and Egypt joined forces for the sake of Palestine.

I therefore say Egyptian-Syrian relations can only be strong for the sake of Palestine. The loss of Palestine is a threat to both Syria and Egypt, and its regaining is a protection of the border of both. That is why Syria has always met with Egypt when it came to Palestine.

I am sure that the meeting between Syria and Egypt will again make the Palestine question the issue of all the Arabs, not only the Palestinians. And this is the correct position in which our question should remain.

[Al-Hakim] They [not further identified] are currently talking about the need to convene an international peace conference. Do you think that this conference will be convened? What are the conditions according to which such a conference might be convened?

[Al-Fahum] We support the convening of an international Middle East peace conference; this position has continually been announced since the holding of the PNC's 1976 session. This support has been reiterated ever since the holding of that session. We do not impose any conditions for the convening of this conference other than those pertaining to our attendance as a major party to the conflict with the participation of all concerned parties and under the auspices of the UN Security Council and the five permanent members of that council. We support the immediate and undelayed holding of an international conference. However, Israel is the party that rejects such a conference. Besides, the United States also rejects the convening of such a conference, as it seeks to resolve the conflict through the pursuit of a step-by-step approach, whereas we seek a comprehensive solution.

[Al-Hakim] If we supposed that 'Arafat would visit Israel, do you think that such an event might resolve the conflict?

[Al-Fahum] Such an event would neither resolve the conflict nor change anything. Al-Sadat did it when he visited the Knesset and delivered a speech there. As a

matter of fact, the speech delivered by Al-Sadat at the Knesset was a very good one, as he made no concessions on any Arab rights in that speech. Shamir was the speaker for the Knesset at the time. Shamir then responded to Al-Sadat's speech showing further intransigence and a stronger hold on the occupied Arab territories. Such a visit by 'Arafat, if contemplated, would be a big calamity. I pray to God that he would not make it.

[Al-Hakim] Some are talking about a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to the aspired-for international conference. Do you agree with this?

[Al-Fahum] When the international conference is convened, I prefer to attend it within a unified Arab delegation, as the issue is an inter-Arab one and not one that concerns only the Palestinians. King Husayn rejected many partial solutions offered to him despite the numerous pressures exerted on him. He rejected all partial solutions.

[Al-Hakim] How do you envisage the representation of the Palestinians in the single Arab delegation? Will it comprise PLO members or Palestinians from the occupied territories?

[Al-Fahum] The problem here is that the PLO is an organization for all Palestinians. Every Palestinian is a natural member of the PLO without having to be a full-time employee. Most Egyptians are not state employees. Does this mean that they are non-Egyptians? We do not differentiate between Palestinians residing in the occupied territories and those residing outside these territories. What satisfies the Palestinians inside the occupied territories satisfies us, and what satisfies the Palestinians outside the occupied territories satisfies the Palestinians inside these territories.

[Al-Hakim] Do you accept Edward Sa'id, who is a U.S. passport bearer, as a representative of the Palestinians?

[Al-Fahum] Edward Sa'id has been a PNC member since 1974. He remains a Palestinian, even if he carries a U.S. passport. He gave a press interview 2 weeks ago calling for stopping the dialogue with the United States because it is useless.

Algeria

Reportage on End to French Airliner Hijacking

Conference on Lebanon Demanded

LD2308141389 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] An urgent story by AP reports that an Air France Airbus was hijacked immediately after its take off at 1050 GMT from Orley Airport in Paris. The plane was flying from Paris to Algiers, carrying more than 100 passengers. It is expected that at any moment the aircraft will arrive at Houari Boumedienne [airport]. It has been learned that all precautions have been taken to receive the aircraft.

Informed sources said that the hijackers have contacted the air traffic control at Houari Boumedienne International Airport and demanded the holding in France of an international conference on Lebanon. The radio correspondent, colleague (Ibrahim Ziwaj) went to the airport and we are waiting for him to give us more details.

Plane Lands in Algiers

LD2308142289 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] First of al,l there is a hijacking of an Air France Airbus. Flight AF2323 took off from Orly 1 and ½ hours late, at about 1245, for Algiers. Curiously, it finally landed in the Algerian capital 45 minutes ago. Apparently the plane was first hijacked over the Mediterranean and was heading for Tunis, and then finally—and it is not clear why—resumed its original route to Algiers, where it landed at 1520 [Algerian time—1320 GMT].

We now know the demands of the air pirates. According to the ALGERIAN PRESS AGENCY they are demanding the convening of an international conference on Lebanon.

But we know no more for the moment, only that there are 102 passengers on board and several crewmen. At the moment we do not know why the plane was delayed on departure or under what conditions the plane landed in Algiers.

This is all so far. The Ministry of Transport, Air France, and the DGSE [French Security Service] for the moment are restricting themselves to confirming the hijacking, and no more.

Hijacker's Nationality Noted

LD2308142589 Paris Europe Number One in French 1400 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpts] An Air France plane on the Paris-Algiers route was hijacked early this afternoon, but it seems that it has nevertheless just landed in Algiers. The hijacker reportedly claimed that there were remote-controlled bombs in the plane's cargo hold.

The nationality of the hijacker has just been learned: He is an Algerian. It is possible that he has accomplices among the passengers.

Hijacking Ends

LD2308145289 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The hijacked plane is no longer an issue, as the whole operation has ended peacefully, and the hijacker has been arrested. The hijacker tried to hijack the plane from Orly Airport, but it transpired that he did not have any weapons except a large perfume bottle.

Hijacker Named

LD2308152489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] At the beginning of the news summary we are going to try and establish a contact with our correspondent Brahim Ziouaje who is at Houari Boumedienne International Airport, for more information about the French plane which was hijacked to Algiers. Our colleague had announced earlier that the issue was resolved peacefully.

[Ziouaje] Yes, the issue of the French hijacked plane has ended peacefully. A youth, Fayed Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasser, who is an Algerian immigrant in France, has been arrested.

He hijacked the French aircraft at Orly Airport at 1150 today. The French aircraft arrived at Houari Boumedienne International Airport at 1430. As soon as the aircraft arrived the hijacking operation was aborted. It became clear that the youth, Fayed Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasser, tricked the French police with a perfume bottle and a bar of soap.

Fayed tried in a brief statement to justify his attempt by saying that he wanted to draw the attention of public opinion to what is taking place in Lebanon and Palestine and demanded the convening of an international conference on Lebanon and Palestine.

Hijacker, Pilot Interviewed

LD2408033889 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpt] There is a new method in aircraft hijacking, a ridiculous method that poses at the same time many questions about the security of aviation: Perfume and soap were used today in the hijacking of the Algiers-bound French airliner, which ended peacefully with the release of all the passengers. Ahmed Meghache.

[Meghache] Believe it or not, with a perfume flask and a bar of soap, an Air France airliner was hijacked on a routine flight from Orly Airport to Algiers, carrying 100 passengers. The hijacker was acting on his own. He was born in France and has Algerian nationality. His name is Ben Dada Fayed Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasser, and he worked

as a merchant in France before being expelled. He told ten aircraft crew that he was carrying a bomb and that he was ready to explode it if his orders were not obeyed. But the hijacking ended safely and he surrendered to Algerian authorities just 1 hour after the airliner landed at Houari Boumedienne International Airport. Let us listen to the captain of the airliner and what he says about the operation, and also to the hijacker:

[Begin recording] [Video shows the plane's captain, not identified, outside the airport] [Captain—in French] Constantine told us that Tunis refused to receive us; we waited a little, then we asked to land in Annaba, and Annaba also refused to receive us. Then we returned to Algiers and in Algiers all went well. We landed on runway No 5. We stopped on the runway, and as soon as the ladder arrived the passengers disembarked. Then security men boarded the plane. They talked with the hijacker, and he agreed to leave with them.

[Correspondent] He was alone?

[Captain] He was alone, yes.

[Correspondent] He remained on board during...

[Captain, interrupting] Yes, he stayed on board the whole time. Once all the passengers were out of the plane, he agreed to see security men; they talked for 20 minutes and then he left with them.

[Video shows the hijacker, Al-Nasser, between plainclothes security men. They stop and he speaks to journalists.]

[Question indistinct]

[Al-Nasser—in French] I put my jacket on my hand... I put it underneath, and that was all, and then I... [words indistinct] the captain... [changes thought] Because I was Algerian. It was a way of making an impact on foreigners indirectly. You hold foreigners and it will go farther. It was not only for an international conference, but also the freeing of the Western hostages. It was linked. An overall deal, if you prefer. On the one hand, I was in favor of... given that things are rather stumbling, you see people are stumbling...[words indistinct] on Lebanon, with the interested persons. On the other hand, there is Palestine, with 'Arafat who recognizes the existence of Israel directly. There should be a dialogue between the PLO and the Israeli Government, and afterwards there would be an exchange. You see, now there is a context favorable to exchanging all the Westerners... [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

It is a very good perfume. I was an immigrant. I was expelled. I was born in France. This is soap, a good brand. My name is Ben Dada alias Fayed Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasser. I am a thief. [laughs] No, no, a merchant. I am 30 years old. [end recording]

FLN Statement on Security Situation in Lebanon

LD2408124389 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Because of the deterioration in the security situation in Lebanon, the National Liberation Front [FLN] Executive Secretariat has issued a statement which included the following:

The grave developments in the Lebanese arena could lead to other tragedies and crises the extent and repercussions of which are difficult to predict.

The complicated internal issues which have been dividing the Lebanese for many years and which have become more grave and more complicated because of the multiplicity of sources of authority, the rigidity of the stances of the concerned parties and their renewed resort to armed confrontation, and the Zionist occupation of Lebanon, have all disappeared from the attention of the superpowers, and even from the attention of some Arab parties. The occupation authorities now governing them are feeling secure even given the traditional condemnation phrases.

The chronic disputes among some Arab sides are also moving into the Lebanese arena, further complicating it, which in turn reflects grave dangers on the whole Arab region.

The superpowers, which are gravely responsible because of their continuous interference in complicating the Lebanese situation, are now riding on top of the wave of Arab differences and are sending their fleets under the cover of humanitarian efforts in an attempt to restore their spheres of influence.

Because of all these events, the FLN, starting from its commitment to the principled stances toward the unity of Lebanon, the people and the land, and its Arab nature and independence, recalls the following principles, which determine its general stance toward the Lebanese issue:

First, dealing with the Lebanese situation is primarily the responsibility of the Lebanese themselves, and solving the problems which divide them cannot be realized except through their will. These problems also cannot be solved through armed confrontations whatever the method might be and whatever the length of these confrontations.

Second, the Arab side would be abandoning a great responsibility if they did not, with all their abilities, work toward helping the Lebanese in this direction. However, this responsibility becomes very grave if some Arab sides work toward fuelling the conflicts among the Lebanese or if they add new dimensions to these conflicts.

Third, joint Arab action could help in solving the existing problems if it were characterized with depth, persistence, and by avoiding everything that might fuel the existing disputes and conflicts.

Fourth, if it is natural that Algeria contribute to every joint Arab action to help in solving Arab disputes and problems, including the Lebanese issue, the Algerian traditional principled stances will not allow such a contribution if it involves taking sides in these disputes.

Fifth, the responsibility of the permanent members of the UN Security Council makes it imperative for them face up to the Lebanese problem with all its circumstances, the gravest of which is the continuation of the Zionist occupation of Lebanese territory in spite of the UN resolution. They should also avoid the blatant and futile maneuvers such as flexing their muscles under the pretence of humanitarian aid.

Egypt

Government Provides Information on Shiite Group

JN2308194889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Aug 89 pp 1, 2

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar and Majdi Hilmi]

[Text] Egypt has provided the Governments of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the United States with complete information on the pro-Iran underground Shiite organization that was arrested by the higher state security. The information includes complete lists of the organization's members inside and outside [Egypt], the installations the organization members planned to bomb inside and outside Egypt, the sources that finance them, the assassination targets, and the methods of spreading the Shiite movement in some Arab countries.

AL-WAFD learned that the Egyptian security organs began coordinating with the security departments of the countries targeted by the organization to expedite the arrest of 16 runaway members of the organization, as well as to monitor the movements of the organization's branches abroad.

Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr is preparing a comprehensive report on the organization; the arrest of its members; the ability of the countries that support this organization to create disturbances in Egypt; harm Egypt's relations with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and the United States; undermine the Egyptian economy; and arouse popular anger.

AL-WAFD also learned that the Interior Ministry held contacts with Arab countries over the past few days to expedite the arrest of the fugitive suspects in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syria. The 16 suspects include 4 Arabs and an Iranian. AL-WAFD learned that the state security chief attorney general's office will announce at the beginning of next week new surprises in the case, including new evidence, important information, and items found on the suspects. The Attorney General's Office yesterday concluded investigations with defendant Muhammad al-Sayyid Mansur 'Allam, teacher at the Shibin al-Kawm vocational secondary school. Attorneys general 'Abd-al-Mawjud al-Barbari and Hisham Hammudah were in charge of the investigations. Attorney General 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud decided to keep all suspects in custody for 15 days for investigations. Maj Gen Zaki Badr ordered the arrest of all of them. The imprisonment order will be implemented after the 60-day arrest period.

Al-Manzilah District Searched; Islamists Arrested

JN2308193989 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Aug 89 p 2

[By Muhammad Raghib]

[Text] Al-Manzilah—The state security investigation department has carried out a large-scale search campaign covering mosques and the homes of members of Islamic organizations in al-Manzilah District. Among those arrested were Dr al-Wasif Hamzah, leader of the Ansar al-Sunnah organization; Dr 'Ali Luqm, teacher at al-Azhar University; and Rizq Hassan, Islamic propagandist and member of the organization. About 20 others were also arrested. The administrator of al-Manzilah District threatened to kill any member of the Islamic organizations.

'Arafat Visit to Cairo Postponed 'Several Days'

NC2308150689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—MENA has learned that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's scheduled visit to Cairo this afternoon has been postponed for several days.

Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and 'Abdallah Hurani, members of the PLO Executive Committee, will arrive in Cairo later today to brief Egyptian officials on the results of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks which were held in Amman under the chairmanship of Jordanian Monarch King Husayn and President 'Arafat.

Sa'id Kamal, the PLO representative in Cairo, told MENA that an agreement had been reached between Egyptian and Palestinian officials that 'Arafat would visit Cairo either before or after the convening of the nonaligned summit in accordance with an arrangement to be made by the leadership of the two sides.

He added that in the wake of the recent tripartite summit in Iraq between King Husayn, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat and the visit which the latter made to Amman, the Palestinian president decided to carry out further intensive contacts with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait before visiting Cairo. Kamal added that a new date for the visit will be set at the end of this week or the beginning of next week.

Sa'id Kamal said that Mahmud 'Abbas and 'Abdallah Hurani will brief Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and other Egyptian officials on the results of the talks which were recently

conducted in Amman in the context of the continuing coordination and consultation among Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian leaders.

Libya

Gorbachev Cables Thanks to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2308175389 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received a cable of thanks and gratitude from President Mikhail Gorbachev, secretary general of the CPSU and chairman of the USSR Presidium, in reply to the condolences cable sent by brother leader to him for the death of Andrey Gromyko.

Committee Condemns Naval Moves in Mediterranean

LD2308202789 Tripoli JANA in English 1431 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Mediterranean Sea Peace Committee has released a statement on the military moves in the Mediterranean Sea condemning the presence of US-French military bases and fleets in this region.

The committee has warned against the unlawful presence of these troops and their suspicious moves off the countries the region as they violate a flagrant and direct challenge to the will of the Mediterranean peoples to live in peace and freedom.

This committee has called upon the world community to take open and clear stances over what is taking place that is threatening peace and security in the Mediterranean especially the suspicious presence of the foreign fleets off Lebanon.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Noriega Hold Phone Contact

LD2308215789 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] A telephone contact took place today between the brother leader of the revolution and General Manuel Noriega, commander of the Panamanian Defense Forces.

Mauritania

Commentary on Severing Relations With Senegal

LD2308104289 Nouakchott Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Aug

[Mauritanian Press Agency commentary]

[Text] Once again Senegal has taken a negative step on the road to tension by severing diplomatic relations yesterday with Mauritania, which has done all it can to reduce tension and maintain what can be maintained of good-neighborly relations.

Senegal, which has taken this step, bears full responsibility before the Senegalese people and before the peoples of the region—who aspire for cooperation and harmony—and before world public opinion, to which Senegal has customarily presented its tendentious fabrications and its instigation of tension with all its neighbors.

The latest measure confirms the policy of charging ahead followed by Senegal since the beginning of events, and Mauritania—that has sought detente and has welcomed and cooperated with the efforts at reconciliation, despite the fact that it was the first to suffer damage—draws the attention of world public opinion to the gravity of this development of events.

What is regrettable is that, instead of facing up responsibly to the issue of the expulsion of a diplomat who exceeded the limits of diplomatic courtesy, the Senegalese authorities have taken the step of a unilateral breach, and for this reason, they are solely responsible for the consequences of this measure.

French Foreign Ministry on Break

LD2308174189 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry made a statement expressing its concern following Dakar's break in diplomatic relations with Mauritania. This being said, the diplomat stresses that the French Government leaves its up to to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to carry out a mediation mission, which does not prevent Paris from pursuing diplomatic action in the two capitals. The last detail given by the spokesman was a reminder of the humanitarian aid provided by France to the displaced populations, 35 tonnes of aid were sent there on 16 August last, in particular drugs, transfusion equipment, and food.

Senegal's Actions Analyzed

LD2308222189 Nouakchott Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Dear viewers, good evening. We begin the bulletin with a comment by Mauritanian radio and television. [passage omitted] Contrary to the world trend, the Senegalese Republic seems to be opposing current tendencies, going against the will of the international community by ripping apart its relations with all its neighbors, which means harming the interests of the Senegalese people themselves, and ignoring what should characterize neighbors' relations.

The last foolish measure it the Senegalese Republic took in this field was to sever diplomatic relations with our country unilaterally, and without any previous warning.

It has become clear to the world, and to Africa in particular, that the Senegalese authorities are an isolated case in the region. No country, which has common

borders with Senegal, has been secure from its provocations whatever the nature of the borders of that country, and whatever its will to ignore foolishness and provocation.

In view of this behavior, which is strange to the region and contrary to the orientation of the international community, is it not our right to wonder what Senegal wants? What does it want from a group of peoples whose historic fate is to to cooperate, and whose geography predestines them to coexistence?

Do the Senegalese authorites not have enough internal problems to distract them from attacking their neighbors? Or do they think that ignoring international laws and provoking neighbors will distract the Senegalese people from the real internal problems facing the country?

No doubt the Senegalese will discover the nature of the conspiracy, and will refuse to forget about their problems by creating crises with neighbors. They will inevitably know that the neighbors are not their enemies.

Senegal, which is solely responsible for this break, is thus stressing its escapism, its desperate attempts to internationalize its disagreements with our country, taking those disagreements out of the OAU framework. The Senegalese president embodies his threats to the organization, which he voiced during the OAU's recent summit in Addis Ababa, when he expressed his intention to submit the issue to the United Nations. This has become clear through the coincidence of the break announced by Senegal with the conclusion of the work of the fact-finding delegation which was dispatched by the OAU chairman to our two countries, in preparation for the visit he intends to pay to the region soon. It would have been appropriate for a country which is immersed in problems not to get entangled in a failed battle to create enemies round it. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan To Make First Visit to Libya

LD2308110589 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0650 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The first visit of its kind to Libya by the Moroccan monarch, Hassan II, since the independence of the two countries will take place soon, as the Moroccan sovereign will attend the festivities in Tripoli marking the 20th anniversary of the Libyan September revolution.

UNITA's Savimbi Holds News Conference in Rabat

MB2308071489 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0540 GMT 23 Aug 89

["Part I" of news conference by UNITA President Jonas Savimbi in Rabat, Morocco, on 20 August; Savimbi speaks in French followed by passage-by-passage translation into Portuguese—recorded]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: I thank you for coming here. We gave you only the shortest of notices, but we are happy to have you here. Today, 20 August, is the day of the king's and the people's revolution here in Morocco. We hope there will be peace in the Kingdom of Morocco and peace in the hearts of all our Moroccan brothers.

I must say we were deeply honored by the audience His Majesty King Hassan II granted us this afternoon. As you know, His Majesty King Hassan II has helped all liberation movements in Africa. Above all, he is knowledgeable about the Angolan problem because he has provided support to the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola], UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], FNLA [Angolan National Liberation Front] and all other movements hold a special place in His Majesty King Hassan II's heart. We came to see his majesty to discuss Gbadolite with him. As you may all remember, we all met in Gbadolite, Zaire, on 22 June. The chairman of the Moroccan National Assembly represented His Majesty King Hassan II at that summit, which was also attended by 18 African heads of state and the Tanzanian representative. In Gbadolite, UNITA and MPLA signed a peace pact. We have had the opportunity to inform his majesty that UNITA remains firmly committed to the Gbadolite principles. Thus, we believe we found the right framework for negotiations in Gbadolite. However, it is necessary that we develop within the context of that framework so that we can achieve real and lasting peace as well as national reconciliation.

In Gbadolite, we spoke about peace, national reconciliation, the cease-fire, commissions that would discuss and implement everything preceding [as heard] the accord. We believe UNITA is open to all possible concessions because we want the Luanda government to respond to the desire of all Angolans and even of all Africans to see Angola find unity, peace, and stability again. When we say we are open to making all possible concessions this means we want to participate in the process, but we do not want to make concessions forcing us to withdraw from that process. We want to make concessions so that we can participate in the process. However, as you know, this is a complex problem because war in Angola has lasted 14 years, killed 200,000, and displaced 1.5 million people. His Majesty King Hassan II shares our perception that the war has lasted too long and that the cannons should be silenced once and for all.

We have come here to ask for advice from His Majesty King Hassan II, whom we have known for a long time. His Majesty King Hassan II has encouraged us to continue along the path of negotiations. He has advised us to remain patient. Above all, he has told us we must not continue thinking in terms of war. Even if the talks are proving difficult, we must always strive for peace and national reconciliation.

Once it has found peace, Angola can prosper. As you know, Angola has a privileged geographical position. The Zairian, Zimbabwean, and Zambian economies depend to a large extent on the Benguela railroad, which

cuts right through our country and stops at Lobito harbor. A peaceful Angola can also ensure better independence conditions for Namibia. A completely liberated, peaceful, and unified Angola can play an important role in the other problems affecting southern Africa in general, and the apartheid system in South Africa in particular. These are problems that must be dealt with knowledgeably. We, the Angolan people, know all those problems.

We also think that, at a time when the superpowers—the USSR and the United States—are doing everything to eliminate regional pockets of tension, Angola should not be the only place where people will continue shooting at each other. Discussions are under way in Cambodia, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and in just about every other part of the globe.

To conclude, I would like to say our program is a simple and short program. First, the cease-fire, and I can even tell you, this afternoon, that our delegation in Kinshasa has already received instructions to sign the cease-fire. If the MPLA delegation is there and shows as much flexibility as we have, then our delegation received instructions from me yesterday [19 August] to sign the cease-fire. [sentence as heard] We have informed His Majesty King Hassan II of this development.

Once that cease-fire has been signed, we want to enter into political discussions, because it is necessary that we learn how we are going to cooperate with the MPLA. We believe this can only be done through a national unity government, including the MPLA and UNITA. In that way, we may learn more about each other and the difficulties of each side. In that way, we could work to bridge differences.

I think that today it is no longer taboo to talk about free elections. Even Poland has had elections. Here, in Morocco, you have many parties, perhaps two, three, or four parties. Thus, it is not here in Morocco that people will find it strange that UNITA should ask for elections. If we work together within the context of a national unity government, it is necessary for us to have full-fledged institutions that can safeguard peace, citizens' rights, and economic development.

We also asked his majesty to advise all of us, not just UNITA, but also the MPLA, Zaire, and other African countries currently working to help Angola find peace. I repeat: We could all greatly benefit from the advice and experience of His Majesty King Hassan II. Thank you.

Sudan

Statement Issued on Talks in Addis Ababa

EA2308123289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] The delegation of the national salvation revolution [NSR] government, which held discussions with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] in Addis Ababa this week, has issued a press statement, the text of which is as follows:

The NSR government—out of its belief in the need to strive to end the ongoing war in southern Sudan—decided to take the initiative and contact the movement's leadership and hold negotiations aimed at ending the war and arriving at a comprehensive and permanent peace in the dispute. Accordingly, a high-level delegation, led by Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council, left for the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, where preliminary discussions were held with a delegation from the SPLM on 19 and 20 August, 1989.

The two delegations discussed various dimensions of the problem in an atmosphere that was characterized by frankness, clarity, and earnestness. The NSR delegation submitted an integrated plan to achieve peace. It was composed of the following elements:

First, the adoption of measures which would provide an ideal atmosphere for the peace process. These measures were:

1. Declaration of a cease-fire which would be consolidated by the two sides;
2. Continuation of relief operations, particularly Operation Lifeline;
3. An end to the hostile media campaign;
4. The establishment of a quick and reliable means of communication between the two sides;
5. Any other issues to be agreed by the two sides.

Second:

1. Suitable methods to discuss the above-mentioned issues to be agreed upon in the form of a national, extensive, or popular conference;
2. Elements to participate in the conference, that will include representatives of the government and the movement, to be agreed upon;
3. Date and venue for convening the conference to be agreed upon.

In the course of four consecutive and intensive sessions, during which viewpoints were tabled on the different dimensions of the issues, the discussion concentrated on matters related to the creation of a suitable climate for the peace process.

The two sides agreed upon the following:

1. To continue and secure relief operations for war affected people:
2. A secure, quick, reliable, and direct means of communication between the two sides.
3. To resume dialogue at a date to be agreed upon.

Colonel Hasan Muhammad Dahawi, member of the NSR government delegation and member of the Information Committee, said in a press statement: "Negotiations with the movement were serious and constructive.

He said that the fact that the two sides had met around the negotiating table had given each side a chance to familiarize themselves with the ideas of the other side, as well as removing the psychological barrier which separated the two sides. Col Dahawi affirmed that the revolution was serious in its effort to end the war. He said the agreement by the two sides to resume dialogue was a serious indicator that comprehensive agreement would be reached in the end.

SPLA Commander Praises Al-Mahdi Policies

EA2308124589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Today, Tuesday, 22 August 1989, we present a recorded interview with Commander James Wani Igga, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] Political Military High Command. Since the civilian government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was toppled in a military coup last 30 June, the first reaction of the movement to the new junta has come from the SPLM/SPLA leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior when he addressed the Sudanese people on 14 and 15 August 1989. However, during the month of July, 15 days after the coup, I met Commander James Wani Igga, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA Political Military High Command and zonal commander of Central and Western Equatoria, and had some discussions with him about the new change of government in Khartoum.

I put to Commander James Wani that there was some hope for peace following SPLA's 2-month unilateral cease-fire, which ended on 30 June this year. Peace talks were going on between the SPLM/SPLA and the former government. [passage omitted]

[Begin Igga recording] Thank you very much, Comrade Mukii Batalli, for giving me this chance. You will remember that the last meeting that took place, around mid-June, on peace in Sudan was the one between the SPLA representatives, of which I was one, and, on the other side, this time, representatives not only of the national alliance or DUP [Democratic Unionist Party]—the party with which the SPLA signed the November 1989 peace initiative—but, more importantly, with a government delegation led by Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, the then foreign affairs minister.

No doubt, this was at last a significant stride towards peace on the side of the government, which before never recognized all the peace efforts so strenuously exerted by the SPLA, either that of the Koka Dam, signed by most political forces in the country, nor the [words indistinct] peace efforts.

We for the first time felt that there was seriousness on the government side towards peace. Indeed, to display its genuineness, the government actually took some steps in implementing the provisions of the November peace initiative. For example, early last June, Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn was sent by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to Cairo to inform the Egyptian Government about their wish to terminate the Sudanese-Egyptian military pact. Al-Mahdi (?was just) about to take a similar step to abrogate the military protocol with Libya. Practically, the government had set the (?boat) in motion as a sign of its determination to implement the prerequisites of holding the national constitutional conference.

So, we had already set 18 September 1989 this year as the date for convening the national constitutional conference, and, by the way, this was going to take place as proposed, for there was [words indistinct] to believe that the government of Al-Mahdi was going to do all it could to execute the provisions [words indistinct] to 18 September.

So, if the new coup makers in Khartoum are genuine about peace, why did they not just wait for 18 September, and if no national constitutional conference convened, then they would have been justified to take over? Why all this impatience then? Is this not a sign of mere thirst for power, probably entailing other evils? Does this alone not really justify a high degree of skepticism over the new junta—that the composition of the so-called Revolution Command Council today and its cabinet both of which is 75 percent constituted of the Muslim brothers, the MB, that is to say, actual members of the Islamic Muslim Front? Does this not alone prove beyond doubt that this man 'Umar al-Bashir is an extreme member like Al-Turabi of the Islamic National Front; and who, anywhere, expects peace from the MB, as all of us know? [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Bashir Holds Talks With Chad's Habre

EA2208224289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Revolution Command Council, and Chadian President Hissein Habre held talks this evening at the guest palace in Khartoum that covered bilateral relations between the two countries and African and world issues of mutual interest.

In press statements after the discussions, Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir said the two sides discussed the previous problems between the two countries and agreed on solving these (?problems), stressing that the next few days would witness noticeable developments in relations between the two countries. He added that the two countries would continue to coordinate and cooperate to solve the problems that faced them.

President Habre pointed out that the discussion was deep and earnest. He said it would give a new momentum to the relations between the two brotherly peoples. He said the consultations would continue between the two countries and that the Sudanese-Chadian ministerial committee would begin its work soon.

Kuwait

Faylakah Site of Television Transmission Station

JN2008164089 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 18 Aug 89 p 2

[Excerpt] Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad al-Sabah yesterday signed a contract with Sayyid Hamid Bahbahani Company to build a television transmission station in Faylakah. The contract was signed for the company by Fu'ad Bahbahani.

The information minister affirmed that the contract is part of the Information Ministry's future plan to provide clear and comprehensive television coverage for all areas in the State of Kuwait and to make the television transmission as clear as possible in accordance with modern technical specifications. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Further on Mauritanian Foreign Minister's Visit

EA1908184189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, has received a letter from his brother, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and ways of developing them. The letter also dealt with incidents that took place between Mauritania and Senegal, their grave effects on relations between the two countries, and the repercussions for relations with other peoples in the region.

He received the letter today [as heard] during his meeting at the Presidium with Brother Cheikh Ahmed Ould Baba, the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. The letter explained the efforts being made by Mauritania to stop those dangerous incidents, to deal with subsequent developments through dialogue, and to preserve long-standing relations and good-neighborliness. Arab and African efforts to mediate between the two countries were also raised.

The brother Presidium chairman expressed Democratic Yemen's deep regret at the unfortunate incidents, which led to immense material and human losses. He advocated a sensible approach in dealing with the effects of the incidents, preventing further escalation, and thwarting any attempts to sow dissension, cause more losses, and serve the interests of enemies of the two peoples and enemies of our Arab and African peoples. He confirmed that Democratic Yemen would do its utmost to facilitate negotiations. He expressed appreciation to his brother, the Mauritanian president, for briefing him on the nature of the developments.

For his part, the personal envoy of the Mauritanian president expressed appreciation for the brotherly feelings he observed during his visit to Democratic Yemen, feelings which represent the unity of the Arab destiny.

During the meeting, a number of issues affecting the two brotherly countries were also discussed. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit, Departs 17 Aug

EA1808181989 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Cheikh Ahmed Ould Baba, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, left Aden this evening after a 2-day official visit to Democratic Yemen during which he handed a written message to Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, from his brother, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Republic of Mauritania.

The Mauritanian foreign minister told ANA that he handed the message to brother Al-'Attas during his meeting with him this morning and that the message concerns bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and ways of strengthening them. He confirmed that his visit to Democratic Yemen was successful and would benefit brotherly relations between the two countries.

He was seen off at the airport by brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister.

Saudi Arabia

Sources Deny Soviet-U.S.-Saudi Overtures to Syria

LD2308180789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1541 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Aug (SPA)—An authoritative source made the following statement to SPA:

Radio Lebanon today broadcast an item stating that the Lebanese newspaper AL-ANWAR published a report today, quoting what it called Saudi sources, which indicated that there has been a joint Soviet-U.S.-Saudi overture toward Damascus, and that the Saudi businessman Rafiq al-Hariri has conveyed a plan composed of a number of points; the item then goes on to list them.

The sources added: "We categorically deny what has been stated throughout this item. We regret that the above-mentioned mass media organ had to resort to publishing and broadcasting such fabricated news before ascertaining the truth from official sources."

Official Arrives in Geneva for Gulf War Talks

JN2308173689 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Geneva, Aug 23, INA—Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, head of the International Conferences and Organizations at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry today flew in Geneva for consultations with Mr. Jan Eliasson, representative of the U.N. secretary general to the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations.

Speaking to INA correspondent here, Dr. al-Qaysi said he would have one or two rounds of consultations with Mr. Eliasson on issues related to the direct negotiations.

Dr. al-Qaysi added that in accordance with the statements of the U.N. official spokesman, the consultations come within the frame of efforts made for implementing Security Council Resolution No. 598 to resolve the conflict between Iraq and Iran.

Last Monday, the U.N. spokesman mentioned that U.N Security General Javier Perez de Cuellar would hold separate meetings with Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister during his participation in the Belgrade non-aligned summit early next month.

Eliasson is expected to hold similar talks with an Iranian delegation believed to be led by diplomat Sirus Naseri, Iran's permanent representative to the U.N. European Headquarters in Geneva.

The U.N. official arrived in Geneva from New York earlier today accompanied by a three-member delegation.

Talks With UN's Eliasson Noted

JN2308185889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Geneva, 23 Aug (INA)—Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative to the Iraq-Iran negotiations, began his consultations with an Iraqi official here this evening. He will hold similar consultations with an Iranian official tomorrow, Thursday morning.

Therese Gastaut, director of information at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva, said that Eliasson's consultations with the Iraqi official, Riyad al-Qaysi, head of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences at the Foreign Ministry, centered on ways to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iraq-Iran war. She added that the consultations which Eliasson will hold with an Iranian official—Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, deputy Iranian foreign minister—will tackle the same issue.

Mrs Gastaut has not given any further details, contending that she is not authorized to elaborate any further.

An INA correspondent in Geneva said that it has not become clear yet whether the UN official will hold two separate rounds of consultations with each of the Iraqi and Iranian officials or whether he will be satisfied with one round with each of the two officials. However, it is certain that the consultations will not extend to Friday, as they will be concluded tomorrow.

UNIIMOG Commander Arrives in Baghdad 24 Aug

JN2408104489 Baghdad INA in English 0955 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 24, INA—Head of the U.N. Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) General Slavko Jovic arrived here today coming from Tehran. General Jovic's current visit is part of his shuttle tour between Baghdad and Tehran and to inspect his team's task. The U.N. official was received by his assistant to Iraq and other senior liaison officers.

UNIIMOG is entrusted with supervision on the Iraq-Iran ceasefire in accordance with the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Chadian President Ends 4-Day Visit 22 Aug

JN2208162189 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Chadian President Hissein Habre left Baghdad this morning at the conclusion of a 4-day official visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Finance Minister Departs Baghdad 22 Aug

JN2208171789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA)—Sudanese Finance Minister Sayyid 'Ali Zaki left Baghdad today after a visit of several days to Iraq. He told INA that during the visit he signed the joint minutes of economic cooperation between Iraq and Sudan. The minutes include bolstering financial and economic relations and exchanging specialist expertise.

'Removal' of Iran, Syria From Lebanon Urged

JN2408083089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper today called for the immediate and unconditional removal of the forces of Hafiz al-Asad and Iran from Lebanon.

The paper says in its editorial that serious militant action should also be directed toward forcing the Zionist occupation forces out of southern Lebanon. Liberating Lebanon from foreign occupations and enabling the steadfast Lebanese people to restore their unity, sovereignty, and security is a common Arab responsibility, says the paper.

"It is high time we put an end to this suspicious Arab silence and stopped flattering and cajoling the Syrian regime," AL-THAWRAH says.

The paper adds that it is enough shame and disgrace on Hafiz al-Asad that he opened Lebanon's doors to his allies—the Iranian rulers who were defeated in their aggressive war against Iraq—and provided them with all political and material cover to violate Lebanon's land, people, and sovereignty.

The paper stresses that a swift comprehensive pan-Arab move on the official and popular levels is the only guarantee for building a sound militant pan-Arab stand capable of confronting the Zionist and anti-Arab plot firmly, courageously, and effectively.

'Illegal' Syrian Presence in Lebanon Cited

JN1908100089 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 19, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said the Syrian interference in Lebanon contradicts with the U.N. Charter, resolutions of Bandong of 1955, the charter of the Organization of African Unity of 1962 and principles of the Non-aligned Movement of 1961.

A daily legal study published here today on the illegal nature of the Syrian interference in Lebanon said that history of international relations referred to several justifications resorted to by countries in modern time for interfering in other countries' affairs... those included use of armed force and interference in other countries affairs under the pretext of protecting souls and property of the interfering countries' nationals... or interfering on the bases of a joint defence treaty or at the request of another country. The daily said that the Syrian regime claimed that interference into Lebanon came in response to a decision by the Arab League and at request of the legal authority for protecting legal institutions and ending hostilities and killings.

AL-THAWRAH legal study said that Syrian forces have renounced the legal institutions in Lebanon and therefore it is better for them to leave Lebanon and move to liberate the Golan heights from the Zionist aggressors.

It said that if the Syrian allegation was to protect Lebanon from Zionist aggression and expelling the Zionist occupiers, the Zionists occupied Lebanon twice during the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon which did not take any action.

The daily said that Arab countries are called to adopt a decisive stand vis-a-vis the Syrian regime which is jeopardizing the pan-Arab security and ultimately realizes the Zionist and Iranian greeds in Lebanon.

Paper Views Syrian Policy Toward Lebanon

JN1808172389 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 18, INA—The Iraqi daily AL-JUMHURIYAH said here today that the conflict in Lebanon was never in any of its stages a mere internal conflict but certain regional and international parties tried to ignore a number of its details that accuse Damascus under various pretexts specially their bowing for the policy of the Syrian blackmailing which is considered a prominent mark in the (?odd) practices of this suspicious regime.

The Iraqi daily said that that had encouraged the Syrian regime to continue the policy of aggression violating the Arab principles and escalating its aggression to destroy the Lebanese national unity.

The daily said that it had been clear since the beginning that the Syrian regime used the wave of comprehensive escalation in favour of the suspicious scheme which it implemented in coordination with the Zionist entity and the Iranian regime aiming as well to hit the Arab national security.

The daily said that this target was stressed by the developments in reality and it was also proved by the fact of dubious harmony between the Damascus regime, the Zionists and Tehran regime and this matter had never been hidden to the Arabs who realized in several occasions the serious dimensions of this coordination.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily went on to say that the Syrian regime became certain that its slogans were unveiled and its deviative logic was burnt after the declaration of the tripartite Arab committee about its reaching an impasse and about its failure due to the interference of the Damascus regime, the thing that made the Syrian rulers hasten implementing the plan of destroying Lebanon.

The paper stressed that the crimes committed by the Syrian rulers had shown all the Arabs the dangerous dimensions of the role played by the Syrian plotting regime against the Arab nation.

The paper said that those crimes had stressed the failure of the Damascus regime and they also stressed the capability of the Arab people to confront all forces of evil and aggression and to defeat them in any battle.

AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper called for confronting the rulers of Damascus and putting an end to their scheme. The paper stressed that the failure of the Syrian regime to achieve the plans of invasion up to now does not mean that the Arab silence should continue vis-a-vis the crimes of the Syrian regime.

Masked Men Kidnap Bill Collector in Tulkarm

TA2408043689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] An Israeli from the Tel Aviv area was kidnapped overnight in Tulkarm. A Voice of Israel reporter said that the missing man is a bill collector who arrived in Tulkarm in a cab with Jordanian license plates, to collect debts. In Tulkarm, the taxi was stopped by masked men armed with knives and axes. They entered the car and began threatening both the Israeli and the driver. The taxi was ordered to drive into an alleyway and the Israeli was taken away. The masked men told the driver to return in a few hours. The taxi driver reported the incident to Tulkarm police, and now both they and army units are conducting widespread searches around the city.

Searches Continue

TA2408051689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The security forces imposed a curfew on the town of Tulkarm and the adjacent refugee camp this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there is increased military activity in the town and refugee camp, and the searches for the kidnapped Israeli are continuing. [passage omitted]

Rumors of Release Circulate

TA2408063089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Over the past hour, rumors that the kidnapped Israeli has been released have been circulating in Tulkarm. So far, there has been no official corroboration of these rumors, and the abducted man has not made contact with any Israeli element. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the kidnapped man is Sha'ul Mas'ani, a 55-year-old Bat Yam resident. A security source told our correspondent that Mas'ani arrived in Tulkarm yesterday afternoon to collect debts from local gold merchants with whom he had business dealings. [passage omitted]

The security forces have launched extensive searches for Mas'ani and imposed a curfew on Tulkarm, the adjacent refugee camp, and five villages in the area.

Rumors Reportedly Unfounded

TA2408072889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Large IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and police forces are continuing to comb the town of Tulkarm and the surrounding area in their search for the kidnapped Israeli, Sha'ul Mas'ani from Bat Yam. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, is personally directing the searches at the scene.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that rumors circulated in Tulkarm this morning, according to which Mas'ani had been released, were subsequently discovered to be unfounded.

U.S. Said Facing 'Moment of Truth' in Dialogue

TA2308165889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Minister Ehud Olmert says that the U.S. Administration is facing a moment of truth regarding the dialogue it is conducting with the PLO. He says it does not make sense for the United States, which supports the Israeli peace initiative, to continue to talk with those who are torpedoing and blocking it—without presenting any conditions for this dialogue.

In a meeting with aides to U.S. senators, Minister Olmert added that the U.S. Administration must now think about a new mechanism to promote the peace initiative, and encourage the inhabitants of the territories to start talking to Israel.

Defense Ministry on Officers in Colombian Cartel

TA2408091089 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Aug 89 pp 1, 2

[Report by the military correspondent and Shlomo Ginosar, Tova Tzimuqi, and Yitzhaq Meridor]

[Excerpt] The preliminary check conducted at the Defense Ministry shows that the reserve officers who worked for the Colombian drug cartel did so without official approval and in violation of Israeli law. A senior defense element stated yesterday that at present, no Israeli company or group has a Defense Ministry permit for either the export of arms to Colombia or for arms training in that country.

This morning, the Defense Ministry will continue a thorough investigation into the matter. According to a senior defense establishment element, an Israeli company, which held the usual permit from the Defense Ministry, operated in Colombia until recently. The permit, which was restricted to training in the use of arms, expired several months ago and was not renewed. It has been learned that the name of the company that was licensed to operate in Colombia is Hod Hahanit [Point of the Sword]. Among its operators were several senior officers holding the rank of colonel, including a former commander of the counterterror unit and other senior officers of the Armored Corps, and Air Force and paratroop officers.

Defense establishment sources made it clear yesterday that the license issued to the Israeli company for operation in Colombia had been limited to services for the government and did not include services rendered to private elements. The defense elements explained that if the Israeli reserve officers who worked for the Colombian drug cartel had in fact supplied Israeli weapons or

any military information whatsoever to any body in America without a specific permit from the Defense Ministry, they did so in violation of Israeli law. [passage omitted]

Court Approves Deportation of Uprising Leaders

TA2408100789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The High Court of Justice has authorized the decision of the commander of the Central Command to deport four of the leaders of the intifadah [uprising] in the territories. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that the judges stated in their ruling they were convinced the commander's attitude was serious and responsible and he had decided on deportation only after being convinced it was essential for security reasons. The judges added that even had it been possible to try the four men in court, this action would not have been an effective sanction.

Our correspondent points out that the four deported men are Mahmud al-Matur, who was responsible for the Fatah organization in Jerusalem and Ramallah; 'Awda Ma'ali and Majid Labadi, both members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and Dr Taysir 'Aruri, a member of the Palestinian Communist Party, who was active in planning and organizing the intifadah in his capacity as a member of the Unified National Command of the Uprising.

Civil Administrator Meets Tulkarm Notables

TA2408101389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Aug 89 p 3

[Text] ITIM—Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the West Bank Civil Administration, yesterday met with a group of notables from the Tulkarm area.

The Palestinian notables who participated in the meeting included Dr Thabit, head of the West Bank Dentists Association, who has been recently released from administrative detention; Wadi' Qa'dan, chairman of the Tulkarm Chamber of Commerce; Dr Riyad Shalabi, head of the Tulkarm Patients' Friends Association; Sara Hanun, head of the Tulkarm Red Crescent Association; and attorneys Zuhayr Khalil and Mazin Jiyusi.

The meeting dealt with the political situation in the region, the impact of the dinar rate on the economic situation, and the issue of studies in West Bank schools.

Druze Clerics on 1st 2-Week Trip to Syria

TA2408072589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Twenty-two Druze clerics from the Golan Heights will set out on a 14-day visit to Syria this morning. They will participate in a pilgrimage to one of the holy sites sacred to the Druze. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the group is leaving on the recommendation of Arab Affairs Minister Ehud Olmert. This is the first time since 1967 that Golan Druze clerics have been permitted to visit Syria for a 2-week period.

Engineering Corps' New Weapons Displayed

TA2308200489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] The Engineering Corps today displayed several new weapons, including the Nagmashot, an armored personnel carrier mounted on a tank chassis capable of transporting an engineering squad and defending it on the battlefield. This vehicle was actually unveiled some time ago, but only now have some of its additional features been cleared for publication. The Nagmashot is also capable of executing a variety of engineering combat functions. Thus, it can clear mine fields and antitank trenches.

Another item is a substance capable of detecting chemical weapons. In this regard, says Brigadier General Yishay Dotan, chief engineering officer, Israel has made great progress.

[Begin Dotan recording] This has placed the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and Israel in general, in a group of countries that may be the most advanced in the sphere of the detection of, and protection against chemical weapons. This substance is capable of detecting the chemical agent very quickly, and is far more sensitive than any apparatus previously known to detect chemical weapons. Consequently, it is able to quickly warn units in the field that chemical weapons are present in the area requiring immediate protection for personnel. [end recording]

A turn-around has occurred in combat engineering over the past few years, says Brig Gen Dotan in an interview on the occasion of Engineering Corps Week. The corps notes with satisfaction that the dropout rate among new recruits has been cut in half; the number of cases in which officers sign up for career service has increased; and the corp's public exposure, and the public's awareness, has risen. The increase in the number of volunteers was linked to, among other reasons, the intensive occupation in routine security matters. These routine matters include activities along the security strip in Lebanon—such as dismantling booby-trapped cars and working in outposts.

As to what is happening on the adversary's side, the chief engineering officer says: We know that the Syrians are reinforcing their fortifications. We, for our part, are preparing for the eventuality of a Syrian offensive. We are doing our best to beef up our line along the Golan Heights and set up such an obstacle that the Syrians will think twice before they try to attack.

[Begin Dotan recording] First of all, regarding the present-day threats, and those regarding the next few years—I think we have very good responses. I believe that one of our duties as a corps within the army is also

to look ahead and see what is happening in the world as a whole. In this respect we should draw up a combat theory, prepare the means, and also train the forces to be ready and have the proper answer at any point in time, so that we are never caught in a situation in which the enemy can find an engineering method of presenting us with a challenge for which we have no response. [end recording]

Boy's Death Triggers Riot in Rafah 23 Aug

TA2308172089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] One Gazan was killed today and at least two were wounded. Official army sources have reported that an 11-year-old Rafah boy was brought to Tel Hashomer Hospital suffering from serious injuries. He subsequently died of his injuries. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the circumstances of his death.

As word of the boy's death spread in Rafah, riots commenced and a curfew was imposed on several of the town's neighborhoods. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a Gazan was brought to the local hospital, suffering from serious injuries. At least one more person was reported wounded in the Rafah refugee camp as well.

More on 23 Aug Incidents

TA2308192289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Two people were killed and 10 wounded in the Gaza Strip today. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that 11-year-old Ziyad Sa'd al-'Aqri from Rafah was seriously injured. He was brought to Tel Hashomer Hospital, where he died of his wounds. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the circumstances of his death. As word of his death spread, riots began in Rafah, causing curfews to be imposed on several neighborhoods.

In the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza, 19-year-old 'Ayyad 'Umar Abu-Qandil was killed today. Ten people were reported injured in clashes with soldiers: Eight in Khan Yunus, one in Rafah, and another in Gaza.

Ramallah Family's Pathologist: Boy Shot in Back

TA2408103589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The Scottish pathologist hired by the family from Ramallah to perform an autopsy on their son's body said that he has found no evidence of torture on the corpse. The pathologist held a press conference in Jerusalem, but refused to divulge any details of his findings. He would only say the boy had been shot in the back. Among other things, he refused to reveal anything about the type of weapon used or the distance from which the youth had been shot.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 24 August adds that the pathologist revealed that the boy was shot by "a single bullet" and "confirmed that the cause of death corresponds to the army's findings."]

Hospital Raided in Search for Stone Throwers

TA2308162889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers detained dozens of inhabitants of 'Anabta in Samaria, including some individuals who have been on the wanted list for months. Official army sources reported that early this morning a campaign was launched in Judaea and Samaria aimed at detaining people in a bid to lower the level of violence and the activity of violent elements in the area. The regional commander told our correspondent Moti Amir that the IDF is determined to take action against those violent elements in order to permit the Jewish residents to live in peace.

It was reported from Gaza that an IDF unit was pelted with rocks near al-Ahali Hospital. The soldiers from the unit chased the stone throwers onto the hospital grounds. According to the hospital staff, the troops conducted a room-to-room search and detained four youths. The hospital administration appealed to the heads of the Anglican Church in Jerusalem, demanding that they take action to ensure that such incidents not recur.

The IDF spokesman confirmed that soldiers indeed raided the hospital to capture the stone throwers.

Pakistani Chief of Staff Departs Amman 23 Aug

JN2308183689 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] General Mirza Aslam Beg, Pakistani Army chief of staff, left Amman this evening after a visit of several days to Jordan. During the visit, the Pakistani chief of staff met with His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces; His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Staff General Fathi Abu-Talib, chief of staff; and a number of senior officials with whom he discussed aspects of joint cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by Staff Gen Fathi Abu-Talib, a number of his assistants, the general inspector of the Armed Forces, and the Pakistani ambassador in Amman.

'Arafat Threat To Reverse Peace Trend Viewed

JN2308102789 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The Writing Is on the Wall"]

[Text] Though it is not exactly a bolt from the blue, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's warning Tuesday that it is as easy for him to reverse the PLO's moderate peace strategy as it was formulated by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in November 1988 should not be taken lightly, least of all by the United States and Israel. There has been little sign of any tangible move towards peace since November despite eight months of dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO as well as the song and dance number that Washington forced the PLO to perform in Geneva in December—that is, of course, not to mention the fact that the least mentioned idea in the dialogue by the U.S. is the proposal for an international peace conference where a solution to the Palestinian problem could be thrashed out. If anything, the U.S. and Israel appear to be sitting back and patting each other in the back that the ball is in the Palestinian court with the much-touted Shamir plan for elections in the occupied territories. No doubt, they believe that something will come along somehow, sooner or later, to bring about a change in the Palestinian rejection of the plan in its present form and then the scene will be fine and dandy for the implementation of the proposal; a guillotine for all Palestinian aspirations for self-determination and statehood.

The writing is on the wall; clear and in capital letters, if you please (it has been so since day one): There cannot be any "peace" process based on the Shamir plan as it stands now, not to mention the conditions attached to it by its mastermind's Likud Bloc. Quite simply, it is a non-starter in its present form and content, because it not only circumvents the fundamental elements in the Palestinians' quest for their rights in their own soil but also seeks to ensure that the very idea of Palestinian independence and statehood is killed, at least for the foreseeable future.

Where does that get the Palestinians? Obviously, nowhere.

What about the Palestinian leadership, who have to fight off hardliners among themselves over moderation, let alone their preoccupations with the ever-present threat of devious Israeli tactics and deceitful schemes? Back to square one, of course.

Who is the culprit in the stagnated scenario? No, no, don't look at us, say the Americans pointing out that the Palestinians should simply take the limping U.S.-PLO dialogue as a sign of American good faith and conviction that the Palestinian struggle is legitimate but that it is the PLO's responsibility to convince Israel of its sincerity for peace. Well, then half the ball is in the Israeli court. But can the U.S. argue itself out of the court when it is the moral, military, financial, political and whatnot kind of support that Washington extends to Israel that is behind the Zionist state's rejection of a just and fair settlement of the problem?

Okay, let us overlook the American role for a moment and switch to the Israel-PLO scenario. How can anyone, least of all Washington, expect the PLO to tear down the wall of "no-dealings-with-the-PLO-terrorists" policy built by the Israelis? Perhaps, it hopes that the PLO would break its head and bleed to death trying to ram the barricade. Wishful thinking, to say the least, simply because the PLO does not represent a small group of anti-American, Soviet- supported Palestinian extremists as portrayed by many; it represents the legitimate struggle of a highly-politicised people who harbour no ambiguities over what they want. And that is nothing short of all legitimate political rights of any people, including the right to set up their own state on their own soil and the right to live in peace and security. It is not only time that Washington and Israel realised it but also high time for corresponding action towards meeting them at least halfway with a view to addressing the problem in a just and fair manner. If the U.S. is not willing to move, then the Palestinians will move, but in a reverse direction from moderation.

'Omission' in U.S. Human Rights Speech Condemned

JN2408062089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24-25 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "No Candle for Palestine"]

[Text] "It is better to light a single candle than curse the darkness;" that was how the American delegate ended his speech Tuesday to the U.N. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, after proposing some concrete steps towards uprooting gross violations of human rights. Well and

fine. The world indeed needs surefooted action to identify the reasons behind such violations and address the root conflicts. Thanks and gratitude would seem to be in order to the United States for bringing the pressing issue into international attention.

As the first step, the U.S. is proposing that the U.N. subcommission conduct a major study on the underlying causes of ethnic, cultural and religious conflicts and another on the moral and ethical basis of law. Excellent. Nothing would suit the world more to help it understand the realities behind reports of people being denied their human rights, how some of them are persecuted and what lies in store for many who dare speak out against injustice. It will also provide the international community enough ammunition and solid ground to base its rejection of contentions aired by governments and armies to justify arbitrary actions.

In concept, the American proposals are some of the best and most result-oriented. But somehow, somewhere, the delegate, none other than human rights expert Morris Abram, seemed to have very conveniently forgotten a region known as the Middle East, particularly what was once known as Palestine, where systematic violations of every human right of an occupied people by an occupier are an hourly occurrence. Of course, Abram did not forget to mention the issue of Jews in Syria, who, he said, want to emigrate; and, of course, the killing of American hostage William Higgins in Lebanon.

We do not know whether any delegate present at Tuesday's meeting in Geneva found it fit to point out to Abram that his address, which tackled China's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, Cuba's jailing of "brave activists," Bulgaria's treatment of ethnic Turks and "devastation and deaths" in the Horn of Africa and West Africa because of "forced expulsions," very carefully skirted any mention of Israel's Nazi-like practices against the Palestinian people—the daily killings, beatings, arrests, arbitrary detentions, demolition of homes, expulsions etc., etc.—which the world has seen for itself.

While we do not have any doubts about Abram's writing skills and oratory abilities as well as his commitment to upholding human rights, we wonder whether he himself wrote Tuesday's speech or someone telefaxed it to him since there is little doubt that the omission of any reference whatsoever in it of the human rights situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was no oversight. We do not have to ask why the omission; we know that is the way things are done by the U.S.—quite simply, human rights assume a totally different dimension under official American eyes when they reach Israel and the occupied territories.

We would have liked the American call more had Abram's reference to the candle and darkness been a little more explicit and reflected the actual American position: "The light of the single candle should not reach Palestine."

Columnist Blames U.S. for Palestinian Suffering

JN2408063489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24-25 Aug 89 p 4

["Open Forum" by Sana' 'Atiyah: "Questions"]

[Text] Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat held up a magnetic card issued to Gazans by Israeli occupation authorities and said: "I am asking Bush, a man who speaks of liberty, what do you think of these magnetic cards? What do you think of this discrimination?"

These forceful questions were posed by 'Arafat last Tuesday at a press conference in Amman. The tone of his voice and his trembling hand carrying the card had the entire crowd in the conference room silenced. 'Arafat repeated these important questions over and over again to U.S. President George Bush, and later to other Western leaders who support Israel.

"When the killing of Chinese took place one day in a square in Peking, the entire world went crazy, especially the United States. But our children are also being killed everyday. Do human rights exist for everyone but stops when it concerns Palestinian citizens?" 'Arafat rightfully asked.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman added that despite the facts of all the criminal measures taken against Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, the U.S. continues to support Israel financially and continues to send arms to the Israelis to kill Palestinians under the age of 20.

Besides the obvious evidence of discrimination similar to that of apartheid—that of the magnetic card—'Arafat also spoke of the new and savage measure taken by Israelis against the Gazans to quell the intifadah [uprising]: the starvation of Palestinians.

The Israelis will continue to do anything and everything possible to try to silence the people and children of Palestine. They will continue to come up with new and bright ideas and implement them simply and merely because the American government's silence is a sign of their approval of what is happening, or at least of their refusal to disapprove. America's continued support to Israel is a sure sign of its approval of having their U.S.-made bullets penetrate the bodies of the people who resist fascist occupation.

One cannot blame Israel alone for what it is doing to the oppressed Palestinians. The U.S. Government must bear a large portion of the responsibility for the suffering of the children and their families. U.S. citizens must also bear the responsibility of these lost lives; the wounded; the homeless, left in the cold after their homes were demolished; the thousands who are being tortured and beaten in Israeli prisons. It is the American citizens' money that is going into the hands of the bloodthirsty. It is American money, American weapons, American support that keeps the Palestinians terrorised daily.

And as long as the U.S. continues this support through finances, arms and the media, only more Palestinians will be killed, wounded, arrested and deported. And it will only protract a possible and just peace settlement that would be beneficial to everyone in the area.

And as 'Arafat said on Tuesday: "Even patience has limits."

Shamir Said To Try To Abort U.S.-PLO Talks

JN2408092889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Aug 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Shamir Is Deceiving!!"]

[Text] Shamir is mistaken if he thinks he can split Palestinian ranks through holding a separate dialogue with personalities from the occupied territories instead of a dialogue with the PLO. With their size and content, these meetings are merely personal meetings. Indeed most of them are held with the PLO's prior knowledge or are later communicated to the PLO. Moreover, none of these meetings has led to the conviction that Shamir, contrary to what he claims, aims to achieve true peace.

On the other hand, Israel's call on Washington to reconsider its stand on the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is a suspect one. Likewise, Israel's claim that this dialogue prevents people in the occupied territories from submitting peace initiatives is misleading. Indeed, the Palestinian peace initiative, which is an initiative submitted by the PLO and which stems from the Arab peace plan based on exchanging land for peace and recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their land, still exists. Hence, Shamir's real intention of aborting the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and splitting Palestinian ranks becomes clear.

If anyone should reconsider its stand it is Israel, which is not satisfied merely with the organized terrorism it is practicing in the occupied territories, but is also involved in planning terrorism. It has turned terrorism into an industry, which it exports abroad and exploits through Israeli military reservists who are now training drug smuggling organizations in Columbia. This Israeli involvement has become a world scandal exposing the Zionist entity's philosophy, values, and disdain for international relations.

As for the Israeli attempt to split Palestinian ranks, it will not fare any better than previous attempts, which failed and disappeared. The steadfast people in the occupied territories are too alert to allow personal meetings with Shamir to separate them from the single Palestinian body. Their glorious intifadah [uprising] is too strong to be aborted by deception after Israel's failure to abort it by terrorism.

In all cases, Jordan will remain a strong supporter of the struggling Palestinian people, just as it will remain a pan-Arab bastion backing the Palestinan intifadah and all honest efforts which are intended to achieve real peace in the region.

U.S. Airline Asks Training for Pilots in Jordan

JN2108125289 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Aug 89 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman—(PETRA)—An international U.S. airline company has expressed desire to train a number of its pilots with Royal Jordanian's training center in view of the center's good international reputation in this field.

The company has requested that 340 flight training hours on the Boeing 727 simulator be reserved for it. [passage omitted]

Central Bank To Sell More Foreign Currency

JN2308182489 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The Central Bank today issued a new memorandum to commercial banks and financial companies expressing readiness to sell them foreign currencies at the official rate set by the bank to their clients' need to finance the purchase of foodstuffs and medicines. The memo also listed currencies needed for Jordanian students abroad and transfers of laborers in the agricultural sector.

The memo comes in line with the Central Bank's efforts to steady the exchange rate of the dinar. The Central Bank stressed the need to adhere to the rules of the foreign currency and the need to use it for the purpose set earlier without charging any commission.

Fadlallah Urges Followers To Confront French

NC2308103789 Paris AFP in English 1027 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 23 (AFP)—Hizballah spiritual guide Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called Wednesday on his followers to confront France's military involvement in Lebanon, saying it would destroy the country.

"We fear that this intervention, which we condemn, will cause the collapse of the situation in Lebanon and we call for it to be confronted," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE during an interview in Beirut's southern suburbs.

"If France continues in this direction, its intervention will lead to the destruction of Lebanon."

Shaykh Fadlallah, who supports the establishment of an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon, was reacting to the deployment of eight French Navy ships including the aircraft carrier Foch in the eastern Mediterranean.

France's "military means would allow it to seize positions—military or not—but it will first have to reduce them to dust," said the Shiite fundamentalist cleric.

Paris decision to send warships to the region on what it describes as a humanitarian mission has been strongly protested by the allies of Tehran and Damascus in Lebanon.

They have accused France of planning to aid Christian leader General Michel 'Awn, who declared a "war of liberation" five months ago against the 35,000 Syrian troops who control two-thirds of Lebanon.

More on Fadlallah's Remarks

NC2408100889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has condemned the French military intervention in Lebanon, regarding it as threatening the destruction of this country. Ayatollah Fadlallah added: If France decides to pursue this recklessness, its entry will be a source for the entire political situation's destruction. With its military force, France could seize more than one position, military or otherwise, but only after this position has been turned into rubble.

Ayatollah Fadlallah emphasized that if France wants to play the role of friendship toward all Lebanese, it must better understand the nature of the real Lebanese situation and that Lebanon will not be made to submit by military means, be they local or foreign. Perhaps the question of the multinational forces in 1983 is still vividly in mind.

His Eminence Ayatollah Fadallah added: I fear that the French forces will be compelled to intervene because of the vehement stands of some who consider the French fleet a means to weaken their positions. This is because when shells are directed at the French fleet, this fleet will inevitably retaliate. It is then that France will become a Lebanese party and the fears of destruction will become a great reality.

On the reasons for the French operation in Lebanon, Ayatollah Fadlallah said: We fear that there is a U.S. plan to have France bogged down in the Lebanese quagmire because the United States cannot possibly approve of a European country's interference in Lebanon in a manner contrary to Washington's policy. He added that France is coordinating its operation with the Soviet Union at the expense of the United States. This is because the Soviets and the French know that the Americans are the ones who are the most affected in the area.

On the possible repercussions the French intervention will have for the hostage issue, Ayatollah Fadlallah affirmed that any complications in the political issue in Lebanon and the Middle East will complicate the hostage issue. Ayatollah Fadlallah noted that he doubts the humanitarian nature of the French task as Western media propaganda portrays it. Commenting on this, he said: The provision of humanitarian aid is not possible in this atmosphere fraught with military threats.

National Front To Treat French as Target

NC2308114089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The Lebanese National Front issued a statement today, saying that the French military move is an act of aggression directed against Lebanon's people, sovereignty, and independence. The front emphasized that it will treat any French presence off Lebanon's shores as a military target. The front declared that it strongly rejects the Mitterrand government's encroachment on Lebanese sovereignty and its insult to the Lebanese people. The front holds the French Government materially and morally responsible for any act of aggression because the front's fighters and the other Lebanese forces will strongly deter this aggression, which will not be luckier than the multinational forces aggression and the Zionist occupation in 1982.

More on Front's Threats

LD2308122189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1133 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 23 (KUNA)—Lebanese National Islamic Forces Wednesday threatened to intercept any French ship sailing towards the Lebanese coast should it try to (?work) at any port belonging to forces loyal to the head of the provisional military government [of] General Michel 'Awn.

The National Lebanese Front said in a statement distributed here that any military French movement shall be

deemed "an agressive action directed against the Lebanese people and Lebanon's sovereignty and independence."

Eight French military ships are scheduled to reach off the Lebanese coast within hours Wednesday.

The front accused, in the statement, France of attempting, through its military presence off the Lebanese coast to divide Lebanon, "an action which contradicts with the interest of all Lebanese without exceptions."

The front reasserted it would deal with any French presence on the Lebanese coast as "a military target."

This development comes one day after a major Syrian newspaper "AL-BA'TH" had criticized France for sending ships to the Lebanese waters and hours after Amal Militia leader Nabih Barri had threatened to bomb any French ship approaching ports under 'Awn's control.

The Front held the French Government responsible "for any aggressive movement because the Front's forces and all alive Lebanese forces will strongly deter this aggression which will not be luckier than the multi-forces aggression and the Zionist occupation of 1982."

The front, moreover, called on the French nation "to remember the French victims who fell in Beirut" in clear reference to the killing of 58 French troops in a booby-trapped truck incident near Beirut International Airport in 1983.

PNSF To 'Lie in Wait' for France, Allies

NC2408070089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The Palestinian National Salvation Front (pnsf) has declared that the Palestinian strugglers and fighters will lie in wait for France and its allies in Europe and the United States. In a statement, the front affirmed that Beirut's coasts and Lebanon's mountains will become a graveyard for the invaders and aggressors, particularly since the nationalist and Islamic forces are now stronger than before thanks to the support and backing of Syria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Palestinian nationalist forces. The front added that this support would enable the nationalist forces to confront the Zionist scheme being implemented by 'Awn and Arab reaction represented by the Saddam Husayn's regime in Iraq and the conspiratorial Palestinian rightists under 'Arafat.

Salim al-Huss Discusses French, U.S. Roles

NC2308121389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has affirmed that he supports the dialogue with heart and soul because he is a reform seeker. He maintained that only national reconciliation is bound to resolve the Lebanese crisis. Dr al-Huss added: Since we are committed to the Arab initiative of the tripartite Arab committee, we must allow the committee to implement this initiative. This committee, he added, calls for the dialogue in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolution. It is this committee which defines the dialogue's sides, topics, priorities, venue, and date with the agreement of all sides concerned.

In a statement to AP, Dr al-Huss said that the dialogue cannot be held with General 'Awn representing the Christians and my representing the Muslims. Basically, the dialogue will not be held between Christians and Muslims but should be held between all the parties involved in Lebanon's political dispute.

To a question on whether the Arab committee has a specific concept regarding reforms, Dr al-Huss said: We have recently received a draft formula on national reconciliation prepared by the tripartite Arab committee. We believe that this formula represents an extremely sound basis for holding a dialogue on political reform, and this dictates that the Arab committee should resume its task as soon as possible.

To another question on whether France and the United States should play a role in facililtating holding the dialogue, Dr al-Huss said: Every effective state in the world has a definite role which it can play in facilitating the task of the Arab committee and in helping it eliminate all obstacles. The effective states have their own friendship and ties with certain sides in Lebanon. Also, some Lebanese sides do not hide their wager on major or small states, although most of these wagers have always been illusions. I believe that the proposal made in France to hold an international conference on Lebanon should not be implemented at present. Since we support the Arab committee, we should not propose an alternative because we are calling on the committee to resume its task. Furthermore, the feverish atmosphere created by France when it dispatched its fleet to Lebanon does not help promote an effective role by France with regard to achieving national reconciliation.

Dr al-Huss went on to say: We regret very much that we do not sense any objectivity in the U.S. policy toward us. The U.S. ambassador in Lebanon moves only in one area in Lebanon and confines his contacts to one side only. The ambassador, Dr al-Huss added, calls for a dialogue between 'Awn and Damascus as if there were no local political dispute in Lebanon and as if 'Awn is the only side involved in the political dispute.

'Awn Cited on French Aid, Other Issues

NC2308151589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] In an interview with the paper FRANCE-SOIR, Prime Minister Michel 'Awn said that he received some ammunition from France And iraq in the past 2 months. He stressed that he desires French military intervention in Lebanon. however, he added, he will not embarrass France by making a Lebanese application for it. 'Awn

said: I expect the French Navy to be at my disposal at least to ensure freedom of navigation in the territorial waters.

In another interview with the paper AL-HAYAH, which publishes in London, Prime Minister 'Awn stressed that he asks the world states, particularly France, to help him as much as possible. He added: However, I do not want to commit anybody to anything. 'Awn said that the recent battle in Suq al-Gharb climaxed the military confrontation. He added: We are determined to continue this battle until the end, and we are not alone. He explained that we stood fast as a result of the international and Arab political condemnation of Syria. He expected still more arab and international moves to solve the Lebanese crisis.

'Awn accused Syria of trying to take control of Lebanon, saying it has placed obstacles in the way of those who are capable of a solution and extended its hand to the incapable. He explained that the initiatives by others will not stop his initiative or method of action. He refused to acquaint the Lebanese or any other party with his visualization of a solution because dialogue is impossible under the Syrian occupation.

The prime minister added: What is happening in Lebanon is being overlooked by the United States and [word indistinct] of Syria and Israel as part of an open game drawing the red lines for both on our land. However, we refuse to become appeasement rewards for anybody.

Regarding his concept of the reforms in light of Muslim leaders accusing political maronism of refusing to make concessions and reforms, Gen 'Awn said: I am Maronite, and I do not insist that the president of the Republic should be a Maronite. I want to live in a state where Maronites and Muslims feel that they are free. 'Awn reiterated his readiness for a dialogue with syria because he does not want to confront it but is instead trying to restore Lebanon's sovereignty.

Gen 'Awn said that Walid Junblatt is frightened and wants to reflect his fear upon his community because he is not up to the threat he uttered against the Christians in the east, since they belong to the states where they live. 'Awn said that the talk about an Israeli list of conditions submitted to him is a mere supposition. He said: We always call for Lebanon to return to where it belongs—to the Arab League and United Nations.

'Awn's Statements Clarified

NC2308200989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Commenting on reports carried by some foreign and local media, an official source in the prime minister's Information Office has said: In response to a question on whether the army has received ammunition for some weapons, General Michel 'Awn said we received a very small quantity, without mentioning a specific source. He later denied receiving any ammunition from France, affirming that ammunition for some French-made weapons can be procured from non-French sources.

With regard to the mission of the French Navy units, the prime minister said that specification of this mission is a purely French matter which is decided by the French authorities.

'Awn Meets French Republican Party Leader

NC2308192489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn tonight discussed the Lebanese question and the French initiative on Lebanon with French Republican Party leader Francois Leotard, who had arrived unexpectedly in Beirut and went immediately to meet with Gen 'Awn.

Soviet Envoy Tarasov Arrives in Beirut 24 Aug

NC2408101789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Soviet Envoy Gennadiy Tarasov, accompanied by Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Vasiliy Kolotusha, arrived in Beirut a short while ago and immediately held a meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

Syrian-Soviet Cease-Fire Group Planned

LD2308213589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1715 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus, Aug 23 (KUNA)—Syria and the Soviet Union Wednesday agreed to set up a committee to monitor a cease-fire in Lebanon, oversee removal of blockades and prevent arms from being delivered to the warring Lebanese factions.

This came during a meeting today between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the special Soviet Mideast envoy, Gennadiy Tarasov.

[Word indistinct] official source said that talks between the two officials centered on the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and ways of securing a cessation of fire there in order to pave the way for a political settlement to the Lebanese crisis.

The source indicated that al-Shar' and Tarasov's renewed their support for the Arab League Tripartite Committee on Lebanon and stressed that it should resume its efforts targetting a settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

The Soviet envoy, who arrived here yesterday, is also to visit Iraq, diplomatic sources said.

Junblatt Asks Algeria's Bendjedid To Intercede

NC2308193089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has sent the following cable to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid:

Your Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid.

I send you an Arab greeting. We urge you to intercede with France in order to prevent it from carrying out acts of piracy against the Lebanese Arabs. We appeal to you and to the Algerian people—you, who have experienced the hideous French colonialism and suffered from its methods and ugliest forms.

Junblatt added in his cable: Your excellency, we are determined to fight regardless of the consequences in order to preserve Lebanon's Arabism vis-a-vis the new crusade.

Kuwaiti Paper Cited on 'Arafat's Aid to 'Awn

NC2308091689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The pro-'Arafat organization has disclosed that it has leased five ships to transport urgent aid to the al-Yarzah army. Citing a pro-'Arafat source, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS reports that the ships had been leased with the help of Iraqs Saddam Husayn and that $4 million had been earmarked for this purpose.

Fatah Revolutionary Council Official Killed

NC2408070389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] In Sidon, Rabah 'Abd-al-Rahim, a Fatah Revolutionary Council official, was killed when unidentified armed men opened fire at his BMW at Sidon's northern entrance. Tension prevails in the city, and a state of alert has been declared in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp.

Joint Commission Formed Under Army Officer

NC2408093889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has chaired a security meeting that was attended by Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Army Commander Major General Sami al-Khatib, Beirut Military Zone Commander Brigadier General Muhammad al-Haj, and a number of Army officers. In a statement after the meeting, Minister al-Rasi said that a joint emergency commission has been formed under Brig Gen al-Haj. The commission is tasked with beefing up the citizens' steadfastness at this difficult stage. The commission will be quite prepared to assist any previous committee or official commission. The Interior Minister pointed out that the commission's task will cover all Lebanon.

To a question about the Army Command's stand on the French move, Maj Gen al-Khatib said: We will treat this move in the same way it is being treated by our legitimate authority and National Front because the Army is the spearhead in this major battle being waged against suspect divisive plans.

Islamic Grouping: Israel 'Only Enemy'

NC2308124489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] At its regular weekly meeting today under the chairmanship of former Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh, the Islamic Grouping said it considered the south to be the only direction for the war of liberation and said that Israel is the only enemy. It added that any other talk about liberation is rejected hypocrisy. The grouping described the process of dragging foreign forces to interfere militarily in Lebanon as an adventure doomed to failure saying that it might bring more calamities to the Lebanese people.

Israel Said To Continue Reinforcing in South

NC2408071089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Israel continues to reinforce its positions in the occupied territories in the south and western al-Biqa'. According to the most recent report, fresh Israeli troops were brought into the Marj 'Uyun area via the al-Khiyam road and Tall al-Nahas over the past few hours. The Israeli forces are preventing civilian cars from using this road. Security sources have reported that well over 20 armored cars, including tanks, took up positions in (Tallat al-Shuraqi) and Shab'a.

Meanwhile, a state of alert is still being observed by the resistance men in western al-Biqa' to confront any possible Israeli aggression after the Israeli force, which deployed on Tallat Bi'r al-Huruf, was compelled to retreat.

Amal Claims Killing Militiaman in Security Zone

NC2308210489 Paris AFP in English 2041 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Aug 23 (AFP)—The pro-Syrian Amal Militia said Wednesday it killed an Israeli-backed militiaman and wounded four others in Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon.

In a communique distributed here, the Shiite group said its fighters exploded a bomb when a patrol of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) passed in the security zone's western sector.

The attack could not immediately be confirmed.

Israeli jets meanwhile simulated raids above nearby Palestinian refugee camps controlled by Amal, correspondents said.

Security Situation Deteriorates; Clashes Reported

NC2308171689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Skirmishes involving the use of automatic weapons and some rockets began on the Suq al-Gharb combat lines at about 1830. The clashes then gradually abated. Similar skirmishes took place on the Bsaba, al-Ma'rufiyah, al-Barid, and al-Matahin confrontation lines. However, the situation deteriorated after 1830. Shells began falling in al-Hadath, al-Hazimiyah, and B'abda, and clashes on the Suq al-Gharb lines intensified a short while ago.

Shelling on Mountain Noted

NC2408062489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The areas of 'Arayya and Dahr al-Wahsh have been coming under intermittent shelling and machinegun fire since 0730 today. The Kasrawan coast also came under some shelling at approximately 0600 today.

Clashes involving automatic weapons and rockets took place on the the confrontation lines from Sodeco and Primo up to the Museum and al-Barbir at dawn today. Similar clashes had taken place last night on these lines as well on the lines in al-Shiyah and 'Ayn al-Rummanah in Beirut's southern suburb and in Suq al-Gharb, 'Aytat, Dahr al-Wahsh, and 'Alayh in the mountain. During these clashes shells fell on neighboring residential areas as well as on areas in central al-Matn and the Kasrawan coast.

'Naval Target' Shelled

NC2408105089 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1035 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The military operations room of the National Front has announced that its artillery shelled a naval target at 1250 today as it was getting close to Juniyah port.

[On 24 August at 0430 GMT, (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon at 0430 on 24 August reported that the same operations room "issued a statement last night saying that its artillery engaged a maritime target off the Tabarja coast at 2220 yesterday."]

More on Firing on Ships

NC2408103189 Paris AFP in English 1004 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, Aug 24 (AFP)—The Syrian Army and its mainly Moslem local allies opened fire overnight on ships approaching Lebanon's Christian-controlled ports, enforcing a five-month-old blockade of the Christian region, witnesses said Thursday.

The shelling came just hours before six French Navy ships were expected to assemble off the Lebanese coast on what French President Francois Mitterrand has described as a mission to evacuate French nationals and provide humanitarian aid to other groups if needed.

Lebanese Army units commanded by the pro-Syrian government of Salim al-Huss said their tanks deployed in devastated downtown Beirut opened fire on ships trying to enter Beirut port in the Christian sector of the city.

"These unidentified ships or the small boats that escorted them" fired back with heavy machineguns, the army said.

The Lebanese National Front, a coalition of pro-Syrian militias, meanwhile announced that its forces fired on ships nearing the Christian port of Tabarja, 24 kilometers (15 miles) north of Beirut, forcing them to turn back.

Syrian artillery in West Beirut also fired numerous shells at the Christian coastline, witnesses said. [passage omitted]

In a related development, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Gennadiy Tarasov flew to Beirut Thursday from Syria for an unannounced visit. He had spent two days in Damascus during which he met Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Soviet sources there said. He also met pro-Syrian Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt on Wednesday night, according to Mr. Junblatt's office.

Before leaving Damascus Mr. Tarasov said "there is no alternative to a political compromise in Lebanon."

In Beirut Mr. Tarasov immediately went into a meeting with Mr. al-Huss, correspondents said.

Informed sources said the Soviet envoy, who was accompanied by Soviet Ambassador to Beirut Vasiliy Kolotusha, would meet Gen. 'Awn later in the day.

It was the first visit to Lebanon by a senior Soviet official since 1987.

Soviet Middle East Envoy Tarasov Visits

Received by Al-Shar'

JN2308160989 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1448 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus, 23 Aug (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received this morning Gennadiy Tarasov, special Soviet envoy to the Middle East. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'ullah al-Fattal, Eastern Europe Department Director Jabr al-Kafri, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, talks centered on the situation in Lebanon, the appropriate means to effect a cease-fire, and preparations to launch the political solution to settle the Lebanese crisis. Opinions were identical on supporting the Arab tripartite committee to implement the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon in all its points, since it constitutes a comprehensive plan to settle the Lebanese crisis. Opinions were also idential on the need to form a committee to supervise the cease-fire, lift the sieges, and prevent the entry of weapons to the Lebanese sides.

Comments on Talks With Al-Shar'

JN2308181189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Dispatch by Louis Faris in Damascus]

[Text] It has been officially announced here that the USSR and Syria have reached agreement in their views on the crisis in Lebanon. This came after talks here between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Gennadiy Tarasov, special Soviet envoy to the Middle East. The talks were attended by the Soviet ambassador and senior officials at the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

An official Syrian source said that the talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon, the appropriate means to effect a cease-fire, and preparations to embark on the political solution to settle the Lebanese crisis.

Opinions were identical on supporting the Arab tripartite committee to implement the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon in all its points, since it constitutes an integral plan to settle the Lebanese crisis.

Opinions were also identical on the need to form a committee to supervise the cease-fire, lift the siege, and prevent the entry of weapons to the Lebanese parties.

In addition, Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov made a statement to Radio Monte Carlo in which he said: Our visit to Damascus is one of the periodic bilateral visits between our countries concerning Middle East issues and the situation in Lebanon, which arouses everybody's deep concern. I am confident that there is no reasonable alternative to a political settlement of the Lebanese crisis. All Lebanese parties must redouble their efforts to initiate an internal Lebanese dialogue on a democratic basis.

Tarasov added: We came out of the comprehensive talks held today with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' with the conviction that Syria, for its part, intends to assist the effort to find a political solution in Lebanon and to restart the Arab League efforts within the powers delegated by the Arab summit conference in Casablanca to the tripartite committee on Lebanon.

Tarasov said: It is important today that every party concerned with the developments in Lebanon should do everything it can to prevent further deterioration in this country and to help in the search for peace in Lebanese territory.

Concluding his statement to our radio, Tarasov announced: We wish to hold contacts with the representatives of the Lebanese side.

I have learned that Tarasov will head for Beirut Thursday morning to continue his mission.

Meets Junblatt, Leaves For Beirut

JN2408100489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Gennadiy Tarasov, USSR assistant minister of foreign affairs, has left Damascus for Beirut following a 2-day visit during which he held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The Soviet official has stated in Damascus that there is no alternative to a political settlement in Lebanon.

In a related development, it has been learned in Damascus that Tarasov met with Walid Junblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party, and discussed with him the latest developments in the Lebanese arena.

Afghanistan

Rebel Faction Captures 300 Rival Fighters

BK2408115489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 24 (AFP)—Forces of the Jamiyat-e Eslami Afghan rebel faction have captured 300 fighters of a rival group accused of massacring 30 Jamiyat guerrillas, faction sources said here Thursday.

The guerrillas captured in the northeastern Province of Takhar by Jamiyat forces of Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud belonged to Golbuddin Hekmatyar's fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami and included Commander Sayyed Jamal, held responsible for the July 9 massacre, sources said.

A Hezb-e spokesman confirmed Thursday that Commander Mas'ud had attacked its forces, but denied that Commander Jamal had been captured.

Jamiyat-e leaders said Thursday their faction had no intention of avenging the July 9 killings or of "rendering justice" itself in order not to "imperil the fragile union of the guerrillas".

They stressed that according to their information Commander Mas'ud would hand over those accused of the Takhar killings to the Islamic commission of enquiry into the incident set up two weeks ago by the mujahidin's provisional government.

Jamiyat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Eslami are among seven Sunni Muslim mujahidin resistance groups based in Pakistan.

The estimate of 300 Hezb-e fighters captured came from one of Commander Mas'ud's brothers, Ahmed Zia, who lives in Peshawar, the guerrillas' base, and receives regular messages from Mas'ud.

He and Jamiyat-e leaders said that the Hezb-e guerrillas "gave themselves up without fighting". In an earlier encounter, Commander Jamal had managed to escape his pursuers, but he was finally captured Tuesday, Mr. Zia added.

A Jamiyat-e leader said Commander Mas'ud had undertaken the action because "feelings were running high in Takhar Province, following the massacre of 30 mujahidin fighters".

The same leader referred to a written statement from the province's religious leaders which asked the north's supervisory council, under Commander Mas'ud, to "punish the criminals," otherwise "its authority would be undermined".

Commander Mas'ud, known as the "Lion of Panjshir" since his early victories over Soviet forces, enjoys strong support in the country's northern regions.

The United States, which provides military support to the mujahidin rebels, condemned the "tragic and brutal" attack at Takhar, which revealed once again the deep rifts between rival Muslim guerrilla leaders.

Hezb-e leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar, who is also foreign affairs minister in the provisional rebel government, confirmed the July 9 incident, but said only 11 rebels including six commanders were killed. He said the others were captured.

The guerrillas' provisional government said it would judge the accused in accordance with the shari'a (Islamic law), which means they will be sentenced to death if found guilty.

An eight-member commission will go to Takhar Province to conduct an investigation into the incident.

Mujahidin Kill Commander, Down Helicopter

BK2308112489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have killed a military commander and 10 soldiers of the Kabul regime in a major operation in Abak, the headquarters of Samangan Province. They also captured a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition during the attack. Mujahidin also shot down a helicopter gunship of the Kabul regime which was bombing their positions near Qandahar airfield.

Mujahidin Reportedly Down Plane in Parvan

BK2408063289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin shot down an aircraft which was bombing their positions near Jabal os Saraj on Salang Highway in Parvan Province, killing all the members of crew, including the pilot.

They captured security posts at (Gharbi cross) near Jalalabad. They also damaged two trucks laden with ammunition in the (Sorkh gan) area.

Mujahidin Close Salang Highway 'Totally'

BK2408114389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have totally closed the Salang Highway, the main connecting road between Kabul and Moscow. All supply trucks coming to the Afghan capital are stuck up at (Qila Ghai) in Pol-e Khomri [words indistinct]. The move follows an operation launched by mujahidin troops under a joint strategy.

Rebels Fire Missiles on Kabul; 10 Killed

LD2308171689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Today, professional killers and terrorists fired 7 U.S. made surface-to-surface missiles on residential areas of Kabul city as a result of which 19 of our compatriots, including women and children, were martyred or injured.

The military section of BAKHTAR reported that as a result of missiles launched on residential areas by the agents of the United States and Pakistan as part of their hostile plans for state terrorism by these two countries against our peace-loving people, 10 people including women and children were martyred and another 9 were injured. Those injured were taken to the hospital quickly for intensive treatment and observation.

Our compatriots also suffered heavy material losses as a result of these U.S.-made missiles being fired on residential areas.

7 Children Said Killed by 'Cluster Bomb'

BK2408004189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1705 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 23 (AFP)—At least 10 people were killed and nine injured in a mujahidin rocket attack on Kabul on Wednesday, an Afghan government spokesman here said. Government Spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said that all of the injured in the rocket attack on various areas of the Afghan capital were women and children.

Mr. Amani also said Wednesday in a delayed report that seven children had been killed in Kabul on Saturday by a rocket equipped with a "cluster-bomb" warhead. He said that the rocket, the second equipped with an anti-personnel warhead to have been reported fired into the city in the past two weeks, had impacted in a south-western suburb where a group of 12 children were playing. Seven of them were killed, he said.

The Afghan Government believes that cluster-bomb warheads were included in a weapons shipment promised to the mujahidin by the United States last month. Announcing the shipments, the United States said they were to counter a huge increase in military supplies to the Kabul government by the Soviet Union since the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan on February 15.

On Tuesday, Afghan President Najibullah accused Washington of "international terrorism" because the rockets were hitting civilian targets.

Mr. Amani also said Wednesday that 150 rockets of the non-cluster-bomb type had smashed into the small city of Charikar, some 60 kilometres (37 miles) north of here, on Tuesday, killing seven people and injuring 14. He described the attack on Charikar as "the most intense" since the Soviet withdrawal and said the missiles had been fired by the Hezb-e Eslami resistance group.

The government Wednesday also reported clashes between rival mujahidin groups in four Afghan provinces in the past 24 hours which it said left 16 killed and 13 wounded from factions of the Hezb-e Eslami and Jamiat groups.

BAKHTAR Reports on Military Situation

LD2308085789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 22, BAKHTAR—An authorised military source said to the correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY (BIA) here that contingents and detachments of the armed forces stationed in Nangarhar Province inflicted crashing blows yesterday on the concentration areas and hideouts of the extremists, supported by Pakistan, as a result of which 22 extremists were killed and 51 others severely wounded in the Chaprahar area of that province. Two mortars, 2 rocket launchers, a set of communication, an arms depot and 3 reactives of the enemy destroyed. During the heavy fire of the enemy on the residential areas and security belts of Jalalabad city two servicemen were wounded.

According to the reports reached from the Khowst grand district and Qandahar Province the armed forces killed 21 and wounded 11 extremists in their attack against the enemies. Six servicemen were wounded during the attacks as well. An assorted of arms and ammunition of the enemy destroyed.

Part 2 of Najibullah 14 Aug Speech to Commanders

LD1808121489 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Part two of speech by President Najibullah to opposition commanders who have joined the national reconciliation policy, given on 14 August in Kabul—recorded; part 1 of speech published in 17 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on page 34]

[Excerpts] What should be my answer to our fathers and forefathers and what should I tell your children, who are the future generation? [applause] Should I tell them that Afghanistan, which was left to us in one piece by our fathers and forefathers—and then there came a president named Najibullah who, instead of uniting Afghanistan and putting it together, despite pressure from the enemy because he had Afghan blood and Afghan zeal, should have saved the country and should have resisted. [sentence as heard] For this reason I invite you, and myself to have patience and resistance. This path is the path of God. This is a righteous and Islamic path. This is the path of Afghanistan's history, the path of protecting Afghanistan. This is the path of Afghanistan's health. If one takes our homeland, our Islam, takes our pride and

honor, how can we call ourselves Afghans? If Afghanistan becomes divided, breaks into pieces with one piece for this and the other piece for that—whichever side we go with, we will be called under their name.

My second question is: Why does Pakistan have the interest and the support of America? If it wants to make a Vietnam for the Soviets in this country [words indistinct]. And they are now engaged in destroying Afghanistan. I am not turning to them now, I am turning to Almighty God and to you, to you commanders, you commanders. It is not only me who has responsibility before God. His instructions and Islamic tenets concerning the people of Afghanistan are the responsibility of each one of you. Let us come together and not blame each other. You should not say that you have done this task for the sake of Najibullah, president of Afghanistan. I say that I have done this because of our brave commanders who have performed this task for 10 years. Whatever the reason, Afghans began to fight each other. Let us come and not allow Afghans to fight each other any more. This is my request. I do not have any other request.

The third point—talks can be very long. However, I chose only these three points. I hope they were good points. The third point: Only today I came across a speech made by Golbuddin, which he delivered some time ago to members of Hezb-e Eslami in Kapisa when he went there. I will request that our press representatives broadcast this speech tomorrow on radio and television. And you will hear his own voice and listen to what he says. However I have taken a few sentences out of his speech and will read them to you. These words are from the mouth of a person who calls himself amir of Hezb-e Eslami and who says that he should be the future leader of Afghanistan and that he will establish an Islamic government here. I have brought these words here to you and I will make a few short comments on them. You will hear these sentences, in his own voice on the radio tomorrow. Let him hear my voice in this meeting with you too.

He says in part of his speech that everyone should respect each other, and decisions should be taken when the majority accepts one path. One should respect the vote of the majority. A majority vote. No one is allowed to impose his will on others. These are his own words.

Now, if we ask Hekmatyar whether he really has respect for the will of the majority of the people of Afghanistan, then, why does he not pay any attention to this will of the people who are in favor of peace, negotiations, and reconciliation. If he says that he accepts the will of Afghanistan—you, the people of Afghanistan, should tell me: Doesn't every human being out there state that he needs peace and security. This voice comes from the very old man to the child. Why doesn't he observe this will.

He says in his speeches and writes in his official letters, as I said before: War, war, and war to the last Afghan. This is against the will of Afghans and is not wanted by Afghans.

On the other hand, it has been suggested several times that we end war and fratricide and go in the direction of elections. As I have said before, first there was the pretext of Islam and they brought in Wahhabism, and then there was the other pretext of the Soviets, but now they have gone. What is their third pretext. The third pretext is this chair. He says: Surrender this chair to me Najibullah. I tell him that if it was my personal property I would give it to him. It is the property of the Afghan nation. [applause] The nation has the authority to surrender it to whom it wants.

Let us go to elections. Whoever the people vote for and choose, we shall respect. We propose this. The most important decision which reflects the will of the majority of the Afghan people should be acceptable to us. He says that we should accept that. This is in accordance with the tenets of the Shari'a of Islam, as well as today's civil laws.

Why does he evade the will of the majority? Because he has no other [word indistinct] without war and creating sedition, creating discord and sedition among the faithful. Almighty God has said in this regard: Do not follow those who create sedition on earth and who do not repent. This is the word of God that I have stated. You see with your own eyes his sedition. He has clashed with Ahmad Sha's groups. Recently, Haj 'Abdul Latif, a respected elder and a valuable commander inside our country in Qandahar, stated recently that we do not want to fire rockets at Qandahar and we do not want to eliminate the shrines of Ahmad Shah Baba and Mirways Neka. He poisoned him.

Let us see something else. When he [not further specified] went there, he said that the president along with the minister of reconstruction, Rabbani are also motivated [as heard]. They should resign. Two days later he announced that they have deviated from Islam, and they should be brought back to the path of Islam. Whomever has a sound mind does not engage in fighting with everyone, inside and outside the country. Who make him engage in such deeds? It is from this that I draw the conclusion that among all of the seven groups, the person who has really become subservient, is Golbuddin. He fights everyone. He fights against Afghanistan—whichever group it may be. And he has started fighting against the world of Islam too.

What else does he say? The Kabul regime should have been toppled by now. There were reasons that the Kabul regime did not collapse immediately with the withdrawal of the Russian forces. Hekmatyar says this. One reason was the winter cold. He says it was because of the cold winter that he was not able to topple our regime. However, the Soviet forces left in this bitter winter and in this regard he says that it was he who threw them out. You decide for yourselves. When there is bitter cold then it is difficult to make the Soviets run. He says no, he made them run. When the regime is not collapsing because God is with it, he says it was because of the bitter winter cold that he could not topple it. You draw your own conclusions.

Whatever I say, they raise their voices in Pakistan where the state propaganda is very strong. Then they say that they have also made preparations to increase their propaganda. Muslims do not increase propaganda. Muslims enhance the voice of righteousness. Muslims do not add to lies. I am giving these examples because these were Golbuddin's words and he cannot deny them.

Another reason which enabled the regime to survive was the fact that they were facing vehicles and ammunition shortages, Golbuddin said. Those people who did not want to resolve the issue of Afghanistan on the battlefield at the hands of the mujahidin created this obstacle for us. There was another reason, he claimed, which was the fact that a number of groups were reconciled with the enemy. He means you, you who have taken steps for the sake of God. He says that you accepted the cease-fire and did not take part in operations.

My comments are very short. I have made one of my comments. He says himself that the regime did not fall because certain people did not want to resolve the issues of Afghanistan on the battlefield. What does this mean? It means very obviously that people are not in favor of the idea of war. They are in favor of finding a peaceful solution to the issue of Afghanistan among Afghans. [applause]

Hekmatyar remains the only one who wants to resolve the issue of Afghanistan by means of war. And we, the people of Afghanistan, have tasted the poison of war throughly over the past 10 years.

His other reason was the lack of vehicles and ammunition. In Jalalabad, 15,000 missiles were fired daily for 2 months. Is this a lack of ammunition? How many missiles would they have fired on Jalalabad if it hadn't been for the lack of ammunition? And still they are not satisfied. They were saying that they will not fire on the cities because there are innocent people and we care about them. They fire 15,000 missiles and then they call it a lack of ammunition! Fired in 1 day [as heard]. You know who the main victims of these missiles are. The slaughter was taking place and is taking place in conditions where we have left open all the doors to achieve peace. And we are ready for peaceful means if a transfer of power takes place, or if the elections solve this issue and prove that the one who wins the majority will have the power. We have kept these doors opened. Then, why should the things that can be achieved by peace be gained by war? Isn't this against the will of Almighty God, may He be glorified, which says that the creating of mischief is more serious then murder. Making mischief is worse than killing. The mischief which is being spread among the people of Afghanistan, among the Muslim people of Afghanistan! Do you think that the soldier that I call up from the bazaar and that I put in a unit, is an infidel? Golbuddin has taken a gun and said: I will kill this infidel. He is a Muslim. Now in his trench, he is fighting a true holy war because he is fighting against foreigners [as heard].

In another part of his speech, he says that of these people who come from each corner of the world and take part in this war and became martyrs, only 80 of them were killed on the Jalalabad front over 2 months; these people from Africa, from Arab countries, from Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and from every corner of the world. Have you noticed that Golboddin speaks about the interference of foreign countries inside our country?

He confesses the fact that interference in our country exists. Yes, we do not say that Muslims in all parts of the world are not our Muslim brothers; they are. [passage omitted] All the faithful are brothers, it has been said. However, would the Arab countries—Malaysia, Indonesia—allow we Afghans to come to their countries, wage war against them, and destroy their homeland? Certain international regulations exist in order to travel from one country to another. How does Hikmatyar allow himself to bring Arabs, Filipinos, Malaysians, and others to Afghanistan and murder our people with rockets? What does he tell them? Inevitably, he is telling them to go and kill the infidels. Where are these infidels? Is not the cry to prayers heard five times a day throughout our country? If the question concerns being alien, then for us, all those who does not have Afghan identity cards are aliens. We are for friendship with all countries of the world, but the condition is that they should not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Be it the Soviets, I am saying categorically, or the Americans, the Arabs, or whatever other country, Pakistan, etcetra, they should not interfere in our internal affairs. [applause]

Up to a few days ago, Hekmatyar said that foreign troops had come to our country and occupied it. However, they have gone today, and he himself has brought foreigners into our country and wants the foreigners to occupy it. They rain rockets down on our cities and on our defenseless people. You yourself draw the judgment. In here, too, I invite you. Let us refer to the book of God, the Koran, which states: [passage omitted] To kill a person without reason or without the crime of creating mischief on Earth is like killing all the people. You see that by firing missiles, they are acting contrary to these words of God.

Henceforth, we will not accept governments that gained power through coups d'etat. Whomever is trusted by all the people should be given the reign of the people. The future government of Afghanistan should be formed by them. After this, we will accept neither coup d'etat governments nor family governments—he means Zahir Shah—nor governments imposed on us from without. It is a popular saying of our people that a liar does not have a memory.

It is 2 weeks since his trip to Kapisa. He announced 3 or 4 days ago in Pakistan—this issue was also broadcast by BBC and Voice of America—that perhaps the neutral officers would take power by means of a coup d'etat in Afghanistan. He means to take power by a coup d'etat. You might have heard. Then I will support them personally. He says in Kapisa that I do not accept government

which comes to power by a coup d'etat. There his voice comes from the throats of the United States and Britain. [applause] He says: Whomever takes power by means of coup d'etat, I will stand next to him.

At another point, he says that we do not accept the imposed foreign government. Hekmatyar, with relation to any other leader of the Alliance of Seven, has developed a closer understanding with Pakistan's intelligence in order to export a foreign-backed government to Afghanistan. He wanted to make Afghanistan a fifth province of Pakistan and to divide and break into pieces our country. At present, in order to export the interim government, he is carrying out missile attacks, fighting, and other efforts.

As I have told you, if we accept the transfer of a government into any province, that means we have accepted the separation of Afghanistan. It is in the hands of Pakistan. As I said before, Pakistan does not recognize our government, and Hekmatyar wants to export a government formed by Pakistani military intelligence. In Kapisa he says that a government should be imposed on us from abroad. We will not accept that government. He is referring to me. The Soviets came. Najibullah got them to withdraw. I have said many times that it was the national reconciliation policy, the political knowledge and maturity of both our party and people which led the Soviets to leave this country. But they say differently.

The November 1987 Grand Assembly session discussed the bad situation in Khowst from the viewpoint of supplies. We made a decision—the Soviets were still here—and we asked the assembly what we should do. The assembly said that we should send representatives to them and give them a 20-day deadline. If they did not accept, the we should carry out our operation. We carried out joint operations after giving them 20 days, and after sending representatives, whom they did not accept. We carried out joint operations. Believe me, many of the commanders inside, intentionally injured themselves so as to claim that it was impossible to fight. They would not fight the Soviets; they used to retreat from the battlefields. Now they claim that they forced the Soviets to leave our country. This was a policy. Well, we got the Soviets to withdraw. Now we are independent. The Grand Assembly approved me. [applause]

You tell me that the Grand Assembly was a fake. Then come and organize another one. Hekmatyar says that the Grand Assembly is an old worn-out tradition of Afghanistan. It has remained from the time of Khans and others. This is not good. We do not want a Grand Assembly. Let's begin elections. They do not hold elections with me. Pakistan, when it finds a weak rival, says to them let us come and hold elections. Let us hold elections. We should all hold elections. Where should we hold elections? There are 5 million people abroad. We invite them to return, based on the Geneva accords. We will declare a cease-fire, and then we will hold elections. He says elections should be controlled, referring to the armed forces and Najibullah. Sarandoy is with him; the Defense Ministry and state security are also. We told him that we will make all of them disarm. We told him: you come, we will invite an international force from the United Nations to observe this task and the holding of elections. We said we will collect all arms. Those we receive from the Soviets we will return. You that have received them from the United States, France, Germany, England, and from dozens of infidels—I have said this before—should return them.

When guns are pointed away from the heads of the people of Afghanistan, you will see whom they choose. At present, they are under the threat of the gun. Why did you not hold elections during the time when they were forming the interim government. Here were, as they say, the guns, bombs, and aircraft of the state and therefore they could not hold elections. They could at least hold elections in the refugee camps that they say hold 5 million people. Did they hold elections? No, they did not. The commanders that they called on from inside—they should at least had called on them as a result of elections. A number whom they asked had to be invited because they held positions and could not be ignored, and a number of others were relatives etc. Even with that, at least they should have accepted the vote of the commanders they called upon. They did not. They formed a 14-man council, disappeared, and 2 days later returned saying: Here you are, we have formed the government. And the government was formed by Pakistani military intelligence. And they say we do not accept an imported government.

They say we should close the Salang Highway. It is very simple. He says that he is sure that the Parwan mujahidin are strong enough to accomplish this. But because of the fear that the people will be inconvenienced and the region will come under pressure—they say: Do not fear. This task should not be delayed. Let the area be destroyed and let the people be destroyed. Just block the road. The Parwan mujahidin should carry out this task.

Do you notice that on the one hand he says that we should think about the welfare of the people, pay respect to the majority will; and on the other hand, tells his men not to delay operations because of the fear that people on both sides of the highway will be killed. Which of these positions is in line with Islam? Muslims know that if a mosque happens to be in the way of building a road, it is not a sin to demolish the mosque in order to build a common path. But Golbuddin, contrary to this Islamic teaching and belief held by us, and contrary to our tradition, orders the blocking of the road so that basic goods will not reach the children, widows, orphans, and old men.

And in conclusion one other word about him: obedience to the commanders and to leaders is a shari'a duty. Since he himself is making a statement and since he is the amir of Hezb-e Eslami and he speaks to the Hezb-e Eslami and to his own group, he is saying that you should obey him because it is a religious duty. You are dutybound to obey the commander. Individuals are dutybound to obey

the orders of the amir and the commander. If we obey this, discord and clashes will never arise. He did not say that if he means obedience, then this is the duty of everyone, not only of those at the bottom. Hekmatyar himself should obey the directions from the top in the government that they and the Pakistanis have formed. He should obey their president. But he is rude to the superior authority that is his president, Sebghatullah Mojaddedi. Hekmatyar does not act towards his superiors in the way that he emphasizes one should act.

Hekmatyar, as you can well see, wants to create clashes, and under the will and instigation of the Pakistanis he has separated a group under the name of the supervisory council, and another group, the Masudites under the name of the followers of the king. This way he creates discord and antagonism. When he himself goes to his commanders, he says: obey your commander and obey your amir because it is religious duty. It is because of this that the Almighty has ordered: [passage omitted] You do not create sedition on Earth after reformation. It is good for you if you are truly faithful. He creates sedition and mischief day and night.

Dear friends, with these proven reasons, this very clear proof and evidence before you, I believe that the faces of the enemies are known, have been proven to you. However, what I tried to do here in this conversation was to tell you that it is the designs of the enemies, who want to dismember us and break us into pieces and create mischief among us. Let all of you get together; sit with all the commanders, sit with all your brothers. Do not think about the matter from the point of view of who belongs to which group, be it from Harakat or Jamiyat-e, be it from Jamiyat-e or Hezb-e, Hezb-e or the Islamic Front, or be it the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan or other political organizations. Only raise one voice that all of us are Muslims and Afghans. [applause] Do not allow discord and sedition to be created among you any longer. The fact is that I find it painful when I hear such information, for example: In July-August 1986, one extremist group in Ghowr—I am saying this in Ghowr because (Haj Ebrahim Beg Khan) is here, who will be a witness—in order to influence people and to prepare ground for taking taxes from the people, ambushed the people of (Sofak) village. As a result, they kidnapped small children with their donkeys who were going out to collect firewood. They killed a number of the children and released some of them in exchange for money. Which part of this action is jihad?

In some parts of the country—I do not feel it is necessary to name them—tens of married women have been married to second husbands because of the orders of some of those making jihad. In which part of the shari'a are such orders found? In 1985-86, ('Abdul Sattar Hakimi), the provincial head of the Hezb-e of Golbuddin, and ('Abdul Ahad) a commander of the Jamiyat-e Eslami, promised to meet each other and discuss their problems. Immediately after facing each other, they opened fire on each other and killed 30 compatriots, the sons of Afghanistan. Does this deed mean jihad? They said that they waged jihad against the Russians because they are infidels. What is the meaning when fighting breaks between the Muslims of two groups? The hand of the enemy is behind it, dear compatriots. It is the hand of no one else. We must break the hand of the enemy. [applause]

As another example, in 1984-85 there were two mujahids who were brothers, born of one father and mother, one was in Taywara District, and another went to Iran because he was assigned there by the same group. He returned home after 5 months, was captured on the border, and imprisoned. He was released from prison after the announcement of the national reconciliation policy and heard that his brother who had stayed behind in Taywara District had married the wife of the captured brother and now had two children. You judge for yourselves, friends and dear compatriots, what sort of games the aliens and savages have played on our Islam and on our Afghan traditions and how they play with them. How they set one brother against another in a spirit of eternal revenge. [passage omitted]

Should the Afghans continue to be set against each other? If we continue this trend and eliminate each other, who will benefit? What will remain? What is the purpose of jihad.

Dear esteemed and respected commanders, Afghanistan asks of you: Afghanistan is our common home and we belong to one family. Do not let this home be transformed into greater ruin. Second, do not allow anyone to spread Wahhabism here against our true and pure Islam. Third, do not let the Afghan kill each other under this name or that. Fourth, protect the honor, dignity, and grace of the ladies of your homeland.

Once again, I sincerely welcome your visit. Rest assured that we will do whatever is in our capacity, and use all existing possibilities so that, God willing, we will take up our firm Afghan, Islamic steps in the direction I mentioned to you. We will accept every sacrifice, righteousness, and compromise [applause], but will not allow the honor, dignity, and grace of our fathers and forefathers to be dishonored. [passage omitted]

I wish you success and victory in accomplishing such Islamic, Afghan, and patriotic duties. Success comes from God! [applause]

Najibullah Meets With BBC Correspondent

LD2008064689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0422 GMT
20 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 19, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan received Eamonn Matthews, correspondent of BBC Television program of London here today for an interview and replied to his question.

Islamic Movement Leader Mohseni Interviewed

NC2208160189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Aug 89 pp 1, 15

[By M. Firozi]

[Text] Tehran—Leader of the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, Ayatollah Asef Mohseni completely ruled out the possibility of holding elections within Afghanistan restricted to the areas under Mujahidin control.

In talks with the TEHRAN TIMES yesterday the Ayatollah was responding to a proposal by the Leader of the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami, Golbuddin Hekmatyar to hold elections for representation in the Shura (Council) to carry out the functions of an interim government for Afghanistan until such time as the regime in Kabul is overthrown. The Hezb-e Eslami is one of the parties to the 7-party Afghan Alliance based in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Ayatollah Mohseni's party is part of the 8-party grouping based in Iran which has refused to have any part in the Shura as they feel it is not adequately representative of opinion within the Iran grouping.

He said that holding of elections in the present circumstances and at this stage would be completely undemocratic and impractical. He added that elections can only reflect a correct picture once the Najibullah regime in Kabul is overthrown and all arms held by the various groups fighting now in Afghanistan collected by the new government.

"To even hold elections in areas under Mujahidin control, although it may be feasible, will not reflect opinion correctly, because people will not be free to vote against those who hold these regions by sheer force of arms, even if these are Mujahidin groups," he said.

Asked what he felt about the Takhar tragedy in which 37 top Afghan commanders died in a fight between the Hezb-e Elslami and Jamiyat group of the Mujahidin, Ayatollah Mohseni said that such discords "can only deal a big blow to the revolutionary movement in Afghanistan." He said "the incident should be properly investigated and the guilty party or parties punished."

Again asked if his party would be willing to hold discussions with the Kabul regime, he said such talks would be possible and there is nothing in the way. "However," he said, "the talks should be held strictly on the condition that his party will not be negotiating with any "communist" government, but only with a representative military authority illicitly in occupation of Kabul."

The mujahidin now have surrounded Kabul and major cities in Afghanistan although still unable to wrest control from the regime in Kabul due to internal discords. Ayatollah Mohseni called for the various parties to end these discords and unify in overthrowing the Najibullah regime.

Defense Chief Attacks U.S. Over Geneva Accords

LD2308092589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 22, BAKHTAR—The United States outrageously violates the Geneva accords, continues equipping armed opposition extremists with modern destructive long-range missiles.

This was stressed by Lieutenant General 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi, secretary of the High Council for the defence of the country in a press conference held on Monday evening in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan in which foreign journalists had participated. He has also informed foreign journalists on the military situation of the country, as well as victories achieved by the armed forces in provinces bordering Pakistan.

While pointing out to the delivery of new-type long-range U.S.-made ground-to-ground rockets to armed opposition extremists, 'Ulumi spoke on the characteristics and destructive power of these rockets. Then he replied to the questions raised by foreign journalists in this connection.

Foreign Minister on Breach of Geneva Accords

LD2308091589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 22, BAKHTAR—I wish once again to draw your attention to the open violations of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan one of the principle signatories and the United States as the guarantor of these agreements, stated 'Abdul Wakil, foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, in his message addressed to Javier Perez de Cuellar to New York today.

Pakistan and the United States by completely ignoring their obligations towards the Geneva Accords and resorting to the policy of state terrorism, have stepped up the delivery of sophisticated weapons to the Afghan armed extremists. The delivery of long range rockets to these elements have enabled them to intensify rocket attacks on cities and other populated areas of the country, thus causing wanton destruction of life and property, says the message.

The most alarming development is the delivery of new long-range missiles to the Afghan extremists by Pakistan and the United States. The warheads of these rockets are mounted with cluster-fragmentation bombs, bombs with delayed time-fuses and anti-personnel mines, all aimed at mass murder and to wreak terror in the cities. While these rockets detonate large number of cluster fragmentation bombs in wider areas, the bombs with delayed fuses and anti-personnel mines, which are spread by these rockets, frustrate rescue operations, adds the message.

The extremist fired one of these rockets on a residential area in Kabul at 9:30 pm August 15, 1989, killing 9 persons including women and children and injuring another 22 persons. Had this rocket attack taken place in

the day time, it would have resulted in a greater tragedy, Wakil states in his message.

In the present circumstances, the message stresses, when the extremists are firing long range missiles on the cities and other populated areas every day, killing and wounding hundreds of our compatriots, arming these groups with weapons of mass destruction and encouraging the use of them on the populated areas is considered nothing but state sponsored terrorism and insistence on the continuation of war to the last Afghan.

It needs to be mentioned that the convention on the the prohibition or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, of December 10, 1980, has banned the use of such weapons. In view of the responsibility of the United Nations towards international peace and security and the responsibility to monitor the implementation of the Geneva Accords, and the mandate that your excellency has in accordance to Resolution 20/43 of the United Nations General Assembly, we hope that urgent and necessary measures are taken to put an end to the delivery of such weapons to the extremists by Pakistan and the United States, and their use against our people, adds the message.

Negligence in putting an end to the aggression and condemnation of the aggressor have resulted in the intensification of aggression against our country and the unabated delivery of more modern and lethal weapons to the armed extremists who do not consider themselves bound by any international norms and principles.

I am sure Your Excellency agrees with me that the continuation of the present situation have adversely affected the prestige of the United Nations and the viability and credibility of international agreements, the message concluded.

Bangladesh

Ershad Announces Amnesty for Shanti Bahini

BK2308135489 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] President Ershad has again announced a general amnesty to enable the [words indistinct] and members of the so-called Shanti Bahini to come [back] to normal life. The amnesty comes into effect immediately and will be effective until the 30th of next month.

According to official sources in Dhaka today, the decision was taken by the president in view of the request made by the newly elected local bodies of the three hill districts of Rangamati, Bandarban, and Khagrachari. The amnesty incorporates a number of facilities.

The first elections of the three local bodies were held in [words indistinct] amidst enthusiasm and large-scale participation of the local people. An unprecedented political and administrative [word indistinct] had also come into effect in the region with the taking over of local bodies directly elected by the people. The official sources said President Ershad and his government believe that proper implementation of this realistic and bold system will be possible only through active cooperation of the people from all walks of life of the hill districts. It is now expected that the rest of the members of the so-called Shanti Bahini will accept the verdict of the people [and] the reality and come back to normal life in response to the amnesty once again announced by the president. The government hopes those Bangladeshi citizens residing in the hill districts who are still associated with [word indistinct] will come back to normal life and participate in the new political government's programs. This is the only precondition for attaining progress and prosperity.

India

Army Staff Chief on Week-Long Visit to USSR

BK2408074989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The chief of the Army staff, General V.N. Sharma, accompanied by three staff officers, is now on a 7-day visit to the Soviet Union. General Sharma will visit various Soviet Army formations, defense installations, and training establishments. The Army chief will also hold discussions with a number of high ranking Soviet officials.

External Affairs Minister To Visit Nepal

BK2308161789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, will be leaving for Kathmandu on Friday to hold discussions with the Nepalese leaders on Indo-Nepal relations. The visit is at the invitation of the Nepalese foreign minister, Mr S.K. Upadhyaya.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that the entire gamut of bilateral relations will come up during the discussions. The two sides will discuss a framework for durable relationship, the working of the 1950 treaty both in letter and spirit. Issues relating to trade and transit, prevention of unauthorized trade and supply of essential commodities. They will also discuss the overall economic cooperation and security matters.

Punjab Border Gunrunners Ordered Shot on Sight

BK2408034689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has asked the security forces to shoot on sight anybody coming with weapons from across the border. He was addressing a border security forces sammelan [convention] at Jalalabad in Ferozepore District on the 2d day of his 4-day

extensive tour of the border areas of the state yesterday. He said, in the fight against terrorists, it is not only necessary to eliminate them, but also to capture all their weapons. He said the extensive operations against terrorists, now on in Punjab, will continue till the problem is solved.

Delhi Holds LTTE Responsible for 2 Aug Deaths

BK2308145489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] An official spokesman in New Delhi has said that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is solely responsible for the civilian casualties in Velvettiturai on the 2d of this month. The spokesman said by adopting a deliberate policy of attacking the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] patrols in the crowded area, the LTTE showed total disregard for civilians present there.

Bodo Refugees Claim 95 Killed in Assam Violence

BK2308151689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Bodo refugees in the relief camps of Arunachal Pradesh have told the state government that 95 people were killed in the Gophur violence in Assam. As witnesses they have given evidence before the Arunachal officials on which verifications are being made.

Releasing a list of the dead at a news conference in New Delhi today, the state chief minister, Mr Gegong Apang, alleged that the Assam government is misinforming the center on the matter. He said 64,000 people from Assam, mostly Bodos, have crossed over to Arunachal Pradesh and 333 are missing. This report has been submitted to the center and the Assam government can verify the facts.

Assam Contradicts Minister on Intelligence Role

BK2408035289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The Assam government has contradicted a statement by the minister of state for home, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, denying any involvement of RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] in the recent Bodo agitation in the state. In a press note issued in Guwahati yesterday, the state government asked the prime minister that such activities of RAW should be stopped in the interest of unity and integrity of the country, as the press note put it.

More on New Warship, Armaments, New Missile

BK2408002589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1939 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 23 (AFP)—Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant Wednesday formally inducted a new Indian-made warship into the Navy in Bombay, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

The INS [Indian Naval Ship] Khukri, with a length of some 90 metres (300 feet) and a displacement of 1,200 tonnes, was fitted with Soviet-made surface-to-surface missiles having a range of 120 kilometres (75 miles), PTI said.

Mr. Pant described the new addition to the Navy as a "major milestone." He recalled that the new ship came some five years after a similar Indian-made frigate, the INS Godavari, was commissioned.

PTI said the dome-shaped surveillance radar of the INS Khukri was capable of tracking low-flying aircraft.

V.S. Arunachalam, scientific adviser to the defence minister, was quoted by PTI as saying Wednesday that the Research and Development Wing of Defence was expected to conduct test trials of Akash (Sky), a long-range surface-to-air missile, by the end of this year.

The missile could take on many air targets at a time, Mr. Arunachalam said.

India successfully launched a medium-range ballistic missile named Agni (Fire) on May 22.

Spokesman on Super Computer, Nuclear Material

BK2308163189 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpts] In reply to a question regarding some Western press reports about Pentagon raising objections to supply of second Cray super computer to India, a spokesman said that we have a long standing request for import of a super computer for the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. We understand that interagency process for consideration of our application within the United States Government is under way. The Government of India has no comments to offer on internal discussions of the U.S. Government. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about India obtaining some nuclear material from West Germany, the spokesman said that India has imported some cadmium bearing stainless steel tubes from NTG [Neue Technologien Gmbh] following open tender and competitive bidding procedure. This material cannot be termed as nuclear material.

Iran

Khamene'i Speech on Safeguarding Nation

LD2308143989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Speech by Ayatollah Khamene'i at a meeting with people of Tehran and Lebanese Shiites in Tehran 23 August—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. First, I would like to welcome all brothers and sisters who arrived here from various regions, particularly the honest and faithful youth who have come from Lebanon.

I would like to state briefly that safeguarding divine blessings is more difficult than attaining them. Attaining God's blessings—be they material or spiritual—is one task. However, preserving such blessings and giving them continuity involves a multitude of tasks. After God bestows his blessing on a human being or a nation—whether that blessing is a material one such as wealth, comfort, or health or a spiritual one such as honor, independence, freedom, faith, spirit of jihad, and resistance—an effort and endeavor is needed to safeguard these blessings. We have seen many nations in history who enjoyed God's blessing, but they could not safeguard that blessing for themselves. The Koran repeatedly addressed followers of Moses [Bani-Israel], telling them we have bestowed on you the blessing of being the best nation. However, the same Bani-Israel, as they were ungrateful and could not safeguard the divine blessing, reached a stage where the Koran had to express its displeasure and say [passage indistinct].

The history of humanity and nations is saturated with instances from experiences of individuals and nations who attained blessings but could not keep them. We the Iranian nation attained a great blessing which was the blessing of the Islamic Republic, sovereignty of religion, and freedom from the bullying of great powers. There was a time in this country when the U.S. and British ambassadors used to meet the country's leaders, dictating to them policies pertaining to petroleum, the economy, and foreign affairs, and then making their departure. What happened in our country during the last century, particularly during the last 50 or 60 years, was that the Iranian nation did not have any will or power in determining its fate. They belittled our country, depriving it of its independence. They destroyed this country's scientists, while weakening the roots of science, knowledge, and material or spiritual developments.

Through the blessing of Islam we succeeded in bringing that dark age to an end. The Iranian nation attained freedom, independence, honor, and a good name in the world, while gaining control over its affairs. Today the country belongs to the people, it is in their hands. The president is elected by the people. The Majlis deputies are chosen by the people from among the ranks of the oppressed and ordinary strata. The nation by itself managed to progress from that situation to the present one, through strength, resistance, struggle, and combat, through reliance on God, and through gathering around a great human and a great and unique leader. This is God's blessing. This was God's will to reward our nation, that after all those resistances, sacrifices, and struggles the nation should attain such pride, independence, piety, faith, and this Islamic system. Our nation was able to safeguard this system during 10 very difficult years, passing it through many dire straits, such as the 8-year imposed war, the U.S. conspiracy, and the united confrontation of NATO member countries. This nation was able to pass numerous tests and safeguard its country and system, that is to say it managed to safeguard the divine blessing from harm.

What I wish to convey is that every day and every hour we face one kind of transition. In the future our nation must—through strength, resistance, awareness, and vigilance—safeguard this great divine blessing, relying on the same will which created this system after years of struggle and then managed to safeguard it. Our nation, praise be to God, is a vigilant one. Perhaps there are not many nations whose general level of political awareness is like that of our nation. Children, youth, the elderly, people in remote villages, and all the nation's people know something about political issues and international affairs, enjoying good awareness, which must of course be developed every day so that people can safeguard themselves in the face of incidents.

Today the world is watching our nation and our internal situation with surprise. They expected that after the vacuum created by the demise of our great leader and the late imam the people's fate would turn upside down completely. They expected to see a mess. They expected an outbreak of civil war, for which they repeatedly waged propaganda in their mass media and remarks. Praise be to God, despite their wishes everything turned out to be contrary to their expectations. Today the people observe that 2 or 3 months after the demise of his holiness the imam, may God sanctify his soul, a president is elected, thanks to the people's perseverance and cooperation. The people are now waiting to have a strong and competent government that can remove various problems, economic problems, complex matters, and difficulties through wisdom, far-sightedness, resourcefulness, competence, perseverance, and by making use of the people's assistance and cooperation.

The heads of the three powers have been appointed. The state administrative systems are busy working; law and order is maintained, thanks be to God. The people have attended various arenas with high morale and will continue to do so. The world is amazed and confused in the face of this phenomenon. This is reward for your awareness.

I am saying that to confuse the enemy further and to please your friends all over the world, all the strata should accept and perform any task they are assigned to.

For the sake of the country's reconstruction and for the sake of the country's future they should do what they are asked and whatever they are capable of. Every member of the nation is today dutybound to support this president, elected and liked by the people. When a government enjoys the people's support and when the head of the government is popular among the people, the task becomes easy.

You witnessed how our great imam used to praise the government again and again with various interpretations and used to strengthen and support the government. The reason was that no government can perform its duties without the people's support. The people should support any government they have elected and the government enjoys the vote of the Majlis deputies and its support. Praise be to God, today our country has a president who is one of the well-known figures among our people and the world, both in the arena of the revolution and the arena of reconstruction, in the arena of political affairs and the arena of religious matters. The people have tested their responsible serving officials, and it is everyone's duty to support the president and the cabinet that will work with him and for which the Majlis will vote. This is a duty, lest some individuals are found to magnify some minor issues, to criticize a small matter that can be rectified in the long term, if not in the short term. People should help, they should support the government and the responsible authorities verbally, practically, financially and with whatever means at their disposal.

I would like to address the esteemed deputies of the people in the Islamic Majlis, too. The Islamic Majlis is one of the best legislative parliaments in the world, thanks be to God. It is popular, free, and independent. Frankly, throughout our nation's history, from the beginning of the constitutional revolution [1906] up to now, we have never had such a good Majlis as the three Majlis terms we have enjoyed since the revolution. The deputies here say what they want to say, on the basis of their reliance on the people's votes and in accordance with their duty. They say their words, make decisions, pass laws in accordance with their duty. It is a good Majlis.

Of course the imam used to recommend repeatedly that the Majlis should avoid clashes. I repeat this recommendation. The Majlis should be free. Everyone should be allowed to express his views and cast his vote. However, expressing views is different from hostility and clashes. Thanks be to God, this wish is also met in the Majlis to a great extent. I would like to say that our deputies, who have been elected to come to the Majlis, are free in their decision-making on the fate of the ministers. The deputies can investigate and vote freely for the Cabinet ministers who are introduced to the Majlis by the president.

I would like to say that today it is expedient not to leave a ministry without a minister, to leave the works unattended under these sensitive circumstances. The people who showed so much loyalty, sincerity, and kindness, the people who remained loyal to their dear imam so lovingly and mourned him, the people who took part in the presidential elections and referendum of the Constitution in such huge numbers, despite being bereaved and depressed, came and elected a president and endorsed the Constitution so as to oil the wheel of the state and to prevent creation of a vacuum in the country. These loyal and selfless people deserve to see that their works are being done. It should not happen that in the Islamic Majlis, because of difference in taste, because of—God forbid—personal matters, one, two, or more ministers are deprived of receiving a vote of confidence, which would consequently leave their ministries without someone in charge. It is not wise to leave a ministry without a minister for even a single day.

How appropriate and desirable it would be when the esteemed deputies—who debate about the proposed ministers to make a decision—think and cast their votes for their competence alone and 100 percent for their eligibility. If they see these governments are eligible and competent, they must vote for them. For the sake of various political issues, policy lines, or personal matters—God forbid because of selfish attitude—they should avoid rejecting a minister for any of these reasons and leave his ministry without a minister.

Frankly these are the days where even a single day is crucial to this nation. If one of these ministries is left without someone in charge, without a responsible head, even for a day or two or a week, a major part of the people's affairs will be left undone. This is not fair. It is not fair to treat this loyal, great and faithful people in this way. They do not deserve it.

We expect the Majlis, while maintaining its freedom which as its right to express opinion on the Cabinet ministers to vote for them—such a right is preserved for them—to observe the interests of the country and the nation in the expression of its views. They must keep the conditions of the present time in mind—that today the world has pinned its eyes on this country, on this new government and on this Islamic Consultative Assembly and on this great nation. The world wants to see how they will accomplish their task after the demise of the imam. We must not give an excuse to the enemy; we must not unleash the tongue of the enemy against us. We must not betray the hopeful hearts of the people. [crowd chanting in agreement]

I want to say a word on the occasion of these dear Lebanese youth who are present in this gathering. Lebanese Muslims and faithful forces in Lebanon have proved that human will and faith overcome any kind of weapons and equipment. These very youth and the faithful were the ones who succeeded in stopping the aggression by Israel which several years ago had advanced as far as the proximity of Beirut. They forced the enemy to retreat.

These very faithful youth were the ones who forced the Americans and the French—who had brought in military force to Lebanon—to retreat from Lebanon in disarray and disgrace.

They did so not because they possessed too much equipment—they had nothing at hand. They are empty-handed where materials are concerned; what they possess is faith. Their faith invests such a power and ability in human beings that it enabled them to use the power of their faith to force the United States, France, and the Zionists to retreat, despite the fact that they were a handful of deprived and victimized people under pressure from all directions by their enemies—Zionists, the dependent Maronites, and others. [chants]

I beg to say that such a faith can still be found among the youth of that country. The European and U.S. powers which are designing plots against Lebanon had better not forget the extent of the power of the faithful youth in Lebanon.

We are certain that with such a spirit of faithfulness and sincerity the world of Islam will be able to regain its lost glory. We hope the great God will preserve and accord success to all the faithful and those who struggle on God's path and resisting strugglers all over the world. I pray that God may shower you, dear and faithful nation, with his greatness, kindness, and blessings.

Mohtashemi Warns of Deviations From Imam's Path

LD2308161789 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Our enemies, the U.S. and the West, would be satisfied only when Islam and the Islamic revolution are annihilated, outgoing Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi warned here today.

Speaking at a farewell meeting with governors general, governors, and commanders of disciplinary forces, he noted: "It is wishful thinking if we imagine that the enemies would leave us alone."

He said that Imam Khomeyni had defined the principles and criteria of the genuine Islam during his lifetime and, therefore, all the officials of the Islamic Republic should naturally move within the framework outlined by the imam.

"Offering any new plan and principle contrary to those (imam's) principles is a blatant violation to the imam's clear path," he stressed.

President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has proposed to the Majlis Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nouri as the new interior minister. Majlis voting for the new ministers is expected for next Sunday.

Hoj. Nouri was Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corp (IRGC) and also a member of the council to review the Constitution.

Majlis Deputies Reportedly To Approve Cabinet

LD2408053189 Tehran IRNA in English 0520 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—Most Majlis deputies have agreed among themselves that the entire Cabinet of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani should be confirmed to show the nation's unity, according to a deputy.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Sobhani-Nya said in an interview that the agreement had come after a private discussion between a "large number" of deputies Tuesday evening.

"All agreed that proposed ministers should get clearance from the Majlis," he told the TEHRAN TIMES.

"Look,...Iran is passing through a sensitive era and what this Hezbollah nation has shown to the entire world is that we are united even after the sad demise of the imam."

His comments published Thursday follow a strong call by leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Wednesday urging the Majlis to approve the proposed Cabinet members without exception so that no ministry would be left without a head even for a day.

The debate on the ministerial nominees will begin Sunday for a maximum of three days. The paper quoted the member of the Majlis Foreign Affairs Committee that the vote of confidence was necessary because Iraq was still occupying Iranian soil and other enemies were waiting for an excuse to distort political realities in Iran.

"If all the proposed ministers receive votes of confidence it will be another slap in the face of enemies," Sobhani-Nya, a deputy from Neyshabur, Khorasan Province, said.

Cabinet Choices Have 'Executive Capabilities'

LD2408082489 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—The TEHRAN TIMES Thursday [24 August] predicted that the Majlis would certainly back President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's proposed Cabinet—after a "really sizzling debate".

"It is the view of political observers here that the Majlis will take to this advice of the leader," the paper said in an editorial comment on Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's call on the Majlis to endorse Hashemi-Rafsanjani's entire Cabinet.

"As a consequence there is a good chance that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani will almost certainly get his way with his nominees gaining the votes of confidence required by law."

The debate begins on Sunday and the voting will be carried out by secret ballot.

The English-language daily said the president in picking his Cabinet ministers had put executive capabilities over political affiliation, "to ensure that there should be a positive turn to the direction of the Iranian Government."

The paper interviewed a Majlis deputy who said most of his colleagues had agreed among themselves that the president's men should all be approved to show the nation's unity.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Sobhani-Nya, a member of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee told the paper that the decision had been made on Tuesday evening when a "large number" of deputies had gathered to discuss the issue.

According to TEHRAN TIMES, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Cabinet will be one of the most powerful in the post-revolution decade and praised him for choosing Dr. Hassan Habibi as his first vice-president.

Having chosen a good team, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani would use it for the progress of the country, the paper said.

"With his political experience and track record as a man who almost gave a new status to his former position as Majlis speaker—most usually an unexciting job—he can be expected to do more and much more as the leader of a very capable team," it concluded.

Majlis Urged To Judge Proposed Cabinet Fairly

LD2408082789 Tehran IRNA in English 0708 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—Iran's national and international strategy will proceed along the path set by Imam Khomeyni, the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI stressed Thursday. It said the program of the Cabinet as presented to the Majlis earlier this week as well as statements by leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to Iranian diplomats was clear evidence of this.

When it came to relations with other countries ideological values and preferences were the same and would be the same as they had been since the culmination of the Islamic revolution. Khamene'i's stand was in fact "a flat no to those both in and outside of the country, who have been flattering themselves with wishful hopes of an impending era of revision in principle and aspirations of the Islamic Republic," the editorial said.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI also echoed the leader's call on the Majlis to judge fairly the qualifications of proposed members of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Cabinet and consider the nation's interests before anything else when deciding on how to vote.

Press Urges Majlis To Approve Proposed Ministers

LD2408092689 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—Majlis deputies were urged Thursday by a daily newspaper to give a vote of confidence to the president's nominees for the new Cabinet.

ABRAR's editorial reiterated a recent statement by leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i who advised against leaving a ministry without a minister in charge in the present sensitive condition.

The English-language TEHRAN TIMES and the Persian JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI also echoed the leader's call on the Majlis.

ABRAR expressed hope that the nominees would receive their endorsement after the Majlis debate which starts on Sunday, in the middle of government week (August 24-31). "Achieving a confidence vote...in Government Week should be considered a good omen," the paper said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Inaugural Speech

LD1708125289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1127 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Address by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at his oath-taking ceremony in the Majlis on 17 August as fourth president of the Islamic Republic of Iran—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I, as president, before the threshold of the great Koran, and before the Iranian nation and the able and Almighty God, swear that I will safeguard the official religion and system of the Islamic Republic, and the country's Constitution. I swear that I will use all my abilities and means in carrying out the responsibilities I have accepted, and devote myself to serving the people, the exaltation of the country, dissemination of religion and ethics, support for the right and the spread of justice, while avoiding any form of despotism. I swear that I will defend the freedom of people and the rights guaranteed in the Constitution for the nation. In safeguarding the borders and the political, economic, and cultural independence of the country I will spare no effort, and with the assistance of God and obedience to the prophet of Islam and the blessed imams—peace be upon them—I will safeguard the power which the people have granted to me like a sacred trustee, like a selfless and honest person, while passing on this power to the next president-elect of the people. Finally, all elements came together to force me out of the Majlis—sending me to a greater responsibility from the point of view of accountability and executive duties. I welcome this new responsibility with all my existence. The total sum of the consultations and views by the jurisconsults [foqaha], especially by his eminence the imam, as well as by the present leader, convinced me of that conclusion. Now

that I begin to accept this responsibility, I would like to state my feelings as a responsible official of the Islamic Republic.

Just now, when I was sitting in the chair, I could see in my heart a very small example of what His Holiness 'Ali Ibn-Abu-Talib had said on the question of governance. When I think from my inner self there is none—maybe it is an exaggeration to say none—but in general I do not see in my inner self any kind of carnal feeling or personal desires for the executive responsibility I am now taking over.

I knew I was coming here to take the oath. Of course, even if I had not taken the oath, the mere fact of accepting responsibility would have meant the same—that I want to perform these duties contained in the oath. These are things which one cannot perform if one thinks of oneself. I was wondering whether or not I could take the oath with the intention of accomplishment; I realized that I could. In fact, I am now in the position whereby if I am to run, say, a school in society, or if I am to run a factory, if I am to do something for this regime in a village, such as be a customs officer, or if I am to be the president of the Republic—I hold God as witness—then I feel that there is no difference in my accepting any of these responsibilities as far as my personal desires are concerned.

I may think that, as an example, I can perform greater work, so why should I go to a less responsible position, but as far as my personal desires are concerned I feel the way I have described. I hope all others who work with me will feel the same.

The oath which I just read—and I read it fully comprehending its contents—does not constitute mere ceremony. In fact, it is a good thing which has been provided for in the Constitution. When one comes to take the oath in front of the nation's elite and to do so on the Koran, one must indeed create a new feeling in oneself, a feeling different from the general feeling and different from the time when, as an example, one is declared a candidate for presidency. This oath has a serious educational effect. I wish to return to the text of the oath, and intend to speak while following the text.

There are points in the oath which, for us, are necessary to recapitulate in this session. I am going to base my remarks on these points on which we take the oath. Or I take this text up within this session [as heard]. Those present at the session are the elite of the people—both our foreign and our domestic guests. My very exalted brother, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Ahmad [Khomeyni], whom I greatly respect—I respect him in his personal capacity, aside from the fact that he is also the son of the imam. I have respected him since before the revolution as my comrade-in-arms for revolution and for the regime. I am certain that once he concludes his present ceremonies he will be an effective servant of the regime.

I thank the esteemed Council of Guardians who have been the sincere guardians of the Constitution and Islam; the previous members of the Supreme Judicial Council, particularly its chairman—who before and after the revolution bared his breast under the most difficult conditions for the benefit of the system and the revolution—and also the dear prosecutor general; the Cabinet members and the prime minister who worked under the most difficult conditions. I cannot say that I know more than others, but I am one of those who knows everything about the country and who knows that these individuals worked under very difficult conditions while managing the affairs of this country, a country which devoted most of its budget for war expenditure and which lost some of its resources daily during the war, and was severely under enemy siege, facing ceaseless droves of refugees, together with many problems and the heavy burden of responsibilities and the rightful expectations of the people.

I do not consider myself the most worthy person at present who can administer this system and these departments and I do not think that now that I have come to power I can work better than those who were the managers before me during the last 10 years. If I were to work under the same conditions as they did, it is not clear that I could have done as well. I do not find that power in myself. The president at that time was someone who is today known by people as the first person in the Islamic world to whom they swore sincere allegiance as the leader. I consider all Cabinet members, without exception, as very competent individuals. I wish they could all be in my Cabinet. However, some of them did not wish to do so, while some chose new positions beforehand. If some of the genetlemen are not with me in the Cabinet we will attempt to appoint them to a position of their choice, so that their valuable experiences do not become lost—not that it ever will.

The judicial apparatus, with the new responsibility put on the shoulders of our brother Ayatollah Yazdi, and with the assistance his predecessors will give him and the help we and the Majlis will give him, will make the new organ a befitting one in resolving people's aspirations, in the same way that I and the Majlis should also act according to people's expectations, as stipulated in the Constitution.

If this era is really new we must understand that the war has come to an end and we are entering a new phase. I am not of course sure—we do not have a war in the same manner as before, with all its destruction and problems. However, we are still besieged by the past scars of the war, and right now, as a precaution, we have to set aside a sizeable amount of our resources for war and the Armed Forces before the establishment of total peace. Therefore, we are not living under the conditions of total peace. At the same time, if we are entering a new phase, there are new issues before us, as we can read in the Constitution, which imply that we must all sincerely cooperate with one another and carry this heavy burden.

The crux of this Constitution—which contains some principles and objectives—I believe, is mentioned in the words of this oath. That is, the president who takes the oath swears that he will safeguard such objectives which have been pointed to and which you have heard or read, but it would be appropriate if it merited some attention as it marks the beginning of my work. Besides, today marks the beginning of my work, as his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i wrote yesterday informing me that he will not hold the responsibility of the Presidency as of today. As he does not have a person available to him to hand over his resignation, naturally his resignation cannot take the routine form. However, he ordered me—as the person who is about to take over responsibility—that I should take over that responsibility from this moment for the rest of his term of office.

Therefore, I now start my work and we should pay attention to what I am saying now. Of course, as far as the Cabinet is concerned, with the exception of a few people for which no final decision has been made, when the Majlis is ready I will also be ready. Of course, the Majlis is debating the merger of the ministries of corps [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] and defense. This session must come to a conclusion on this so that the new minister is put forward in accordance with the law. Secondly, a reforming bill is needed, as there has not been selection of Cabinet members in this way in the past, that is to say, the president directly introducing the cabinet to the Majlis. That reform must also be carried out. If, God willing, this bill is ratified promptly, and the gentlemen are able to conclude their work by Saturday, then whenever the gentlemen from the Majlis conclude their work and the Council of Guardians makes the necessary ratifications, I will introduce the Cabinet, so that the country does not have to wait. Of course, the ministers will certainly, not for one moment, allow the country's affairs to wait in vain. Wherever they are they will carry out their duties without complacency.

Now let us see what actions we must take. We remember the God in front of the nation and the Koran to guard the official faith of the Islamic Republic's regime and the country's Constitution. With regard to Islam, there is nothing to debate about. If we intend to guard the Constitution, then we must follow up the points that I am going to raise. Meanwhile, I will employ all my talent and competence to carry out the responsibilities that I have accepted and to devote myself to serving the people. The term devote is a big word. It was not without reason that the term was used. If one devotes oneself, it means that he should not think of himself. If I devote myself as I take the oath, then it is difficult for me to dwell on personal affairs except to the extent of preserving myself so that I may discharge my responsibilities. If I intend to allow the country's affairs to be overshadowed by my own person—such considerations as family ties, nepotism, friendship, and those things that affect a human being—then I could not be devoted to the people. To some extent I would be devoted to myself. Devote. It is a very big word which has come in the oath. To devote myself to serving the people and to glorifying the country.

These are also important—attention to morals, supporting what is right, spreading justice, refraining from any kind of despotism. This is a very big responsibility for one who is the president—with the powers which have been given to him in the amendments to the Constitution. Indeed, this is a great responsibility.

Of course, I personally have always hated dictatorial despotism. I believe that in a free environment, where there is security for people, it is only possible to work. If we limit people's freedom, regardless of the extent, with no justification, then we will sustain a loss. Unless, one thinks for the moment and then succeeds in defeating freedom, but on a long-term basis, if one unjustifiably limits people's freedom, one will definitely lose. Freedom is the fruit of too much immaculate blood which has been shed in the world—and great efforts have been made by competent people throughout history and today to prove that despotism is the worst ailment of humanity. If there is an instrument for one to measure the crimes and to classify the crimes of the history, perhaps the great majority of these crimes have been committed on account of despots and dictators in the history of despotic people—those who enslave others for their own pleasure and exploit other people's resources.

I deeply hate despotism, but we must pray to God to preserve us from sinking into the mire of self-seeking despotism. To support the freedoms and respect individuals and the rights which the Constitution has recognized for the nation—these are what the Constitution has given to the people, and despite it, we have not been able to give many of them to the people. Not that we have failed to give them to the people; in fact, our people themselves have not wanted all of these rights. That is, our people have opted not to ask for them. I was, this very morning, reading the third article of the Constitution as I was preparing myself for oath taking. It was for this sentence in the oath. Well, we have to give fantastic things to the people. Here, free lower education has been foreseen for all the people. Suitable insurance has been foreseen for the people. Job opportunities have been foreseen for the people. These are the rights belonging to the people.

Of course our people realize that the country's responsible officials were not complacent in the past. They did their best. However, our enemies, the enemies of Islam, did not wish this and tried hard to disrupt matters. The war they imposed upon us and the strange and amazing colonial deeds against us during the past 10 years were some examples. But our people welcomed this deed [sentence as heard]. You can see it here.

The issue of guarding the borders and the country's political, economic, and cultural independence remain a duty and one should not refrain from taking any measure to perform this duty. These tasks competed for resources

in the past. The issue of safeguarding the country's borders competed with providing insurance, housing, proper education, and employment. Had we decided to move towards providing the latter, we would have lost our country. In connection with economic independence, we know the world's bullies, these colonial states. They are never prepared to observe regulations or principles in their political relations, just to please God or for the sake of their conscience and in the interest of other nations. As our own history shows and the world has mostly witnessed, since the time when the colonialists found their way to this country several hundred years ago, they have never entertained the idea of doing something to serve our country's interests or for the sake of this country's independence. Of course, their agents used to fulfill certain tasks in order to maintain security, to explore oil, and other other similar examples. But everything they did was aimed at serving their own interests, and as a result our people would reap some benefit from their works. But their own interests were the main objective.

The idea of achieving economic independence in today's Iran—a country that has attracted the attention of the entire world like a diamond on a ring, a country which because of its strategic position and political and economic status is coveted by the world's greedy vultures who have always thought of dominating it, a country in which every colonialist has always sought a foothold for himself—to achieve economic independence in a country like Iran, which for hundreds of years has been crushed under the boot of the world's dastardly elements, is no doubt difficult. Our people have understood the difficulty and it seems they have chosen to face the difficulties. Our leader, who was perhaps the most loved leader in the world and the most trusted human being in history, among his own people, was pursuing these aspirations and was constantly watching to ensure that the responsible officials would not deviate from this path.

If we were to pursue the aspirations of the revolution by granting them priority, if for instance we decide to build houses, if we have houses without economic independence, without safeguarding our borders, it is doubtful whether our people would want housing or insurance under such circumstances. The people have made their choice; and as long as the shadow of the war remains on this country, as long as this revolution is under the shadow of threats, the same priority remains. But if, suppose... [changes thought] in my opinion, militarily, it is highly unlikely that we will have another war, but at least we should prepare ourselves for both possibilities; that is, we should think that there is going to be another war and at the same time we should assume that we shall not have another war and we can go ahead with reconstruction; in either case we must prepare ourselves.

I am grateful to my esteemed brothers, the honorable speaker of the Majlis His Excellency Mr Karrubi, for his praise that I do not deserve; and also to His Excellency Ayatollah Yazdi, the chief of the judiciary, who praised and endorsed me with some remarks which again I do not think I deserve. These brothers said that the people's expectations are high, thanks to the propaganda, incitements, and the hopes created; I admit that the people have expectations beyond the possibilities at present; however, we, in our turn, have the responsibility to meet these expectations. That is you, the Majlis, my dear brothers in the Majlis, and you the ministers who will either work with me or will have other responsibilities next to me as collegues, the judicial power and the rest of us, under our leadership [reference to Khamene'i] who is quite familiar with the country's situation, and we should all strive to meet these expectations to some extent. I mean, we should start responding to their demands. At any rate, you can see that we are taking the oath to observe the Constitution. That is we are not supposed to defend the borders and political independence alone. We should obviously defend other forms of independence too; that is, we must secure the country's economic independence, too. This is one of our duties. Do you think that we can secure independence without serious production in the country? If we were to continue buying our wheat, forage, meat, machine tools, and equipment, the machinery itself and our skilled manpower, well, in that case, we would not have any sort of independence, neither political independence nor economic independence. We would have nothing. Anyone who is so poor and needy certainly cannot raise his head in the world. Can it be said continuously that the poor and hungry people should charge forward with empty stomachs to get killed? Can we protect the people like this? This is not the way. We must, therefore, strive seriously. Many possibilities exist in this country.

Of course, it is said for instance that we must strive to prevent the outbreak of the war. However, if war is imposed upon us, we will defend ourselves as we did before. All the same, it is part of our duty to strive and prevent the outbreak of war. That is, our political actions should serve to prevent the outbreak of the war.

Yes, if it should happen that there is a contradiction between whether we should lose the aspirations of the revolutions and trample underfoot our principles and disregard Islam and the goals of the revolution then we will say no; we shall put up with the situation since it is expected; all of our members are ready to become martyrs to ensure that these principles are not sacrificed. However, our duty is to ensure that no wars occur so that we may also be able to attend to the other aspects of the Constitution. It is our duty to bring about such conditions that would enable us to use the resources that are available in the country, and which are being wasted and are needed by the people—people who stand for hours under the sun and wait, whenever we invite them to the elections, and stand in line to vote, these same people who leave this line and then go and stand in the other lines to obtain their basic needs—we should do something for these people toward solving their problems while preserving our principles. Without war we could do a lot of things. Just as I have asked on other occasions,

is this justice? I don't know how this great treason was committed against the people. A country that can obtain tens of thousands of megawatts of eletricity from waters that are streaming down the top of mountains and are wasted—by harnessing these one would have these resources at one's disposal, to be able to prevent all this waste of fuel and all this unemployment. How can this country attain calm; how can its officials attain calm and say: We have political independence and this is enough for us; no one dominates us. If today, we had harnessed the waters of Karrun, Karkheh, Dez, and dozens of other streams, and if we had these, then the state of our energy or of agriculture would not be as they are nor would our progress be as it is. We should, without reservation look at the accomplishments of people in the world if they find even a drop of water anywhere in the world, and look at those who do have water; we see counties that are full of water, with abundant rainfall, , for example 1,000 mm of rain in their country, they have nevertheless built dams in all their rivers. In our country all our border rivers run into the territories of others and the rivers of our hinterlands travel across the country and go into the sea, either the Northern Sea [Caspian] or the Southern Sea [Gulf]. These despicable people in the past, instead of carrying out these kinds of tasks, went after such things as investment abroad. We too, since our arrival, we have not been able to do anything under the conditions they left for us. The people of this country do not need to be poor—our country has vast gas resources. The last regime really committed high treason when they knew full well that there was so much gas—and in those times the conditions for investments were easy and not difficult. If there had been gas in all parts of Iran, our situation would not have been like this. The energy situation of our people, the situation of our environment, and many other fields would not have been thus.

We should, as the Majlis, as the government, and as officials of the country, lay the preliminary basis of this task. This cannot be done through words alone—you gentlemen know that you cannot build big dams today, in important places, by chanting slogans—you can chant slogans and say we shall build this dam, just like this. The basic steps have to be prepared and other relevant needs have to be prepared. Our universities cannot, in reality, meet the talents of the people. We do not have a shortage of manpower; we have a lot of talent in this country, thanks to God, who, if they had to could administer the world—these people are competent, talented, sincere. There are a lot among them who do not gain a place [at the university] after their entrance exams and turn to selling cigarettes in the streets. They are forced to do this—for if they did not sell cigarettes, they would not have any money to take home at night; they have to do something so that when they go home at night there is bread to eat.

We can do these things. We can have plans. Of course, our people understand this. It is not possible to increase the capacity of our universities. This is not a job which can be done in a day, or even a year. Our people are not so ignorant so as not to realize this. This is not the case. We should start our tasks. The most significant task I have incessantly mentioned in the course of my election speeches is that of our industries. We have a very high capacity at the moment, but our machinery is lying idle, our work force is getting paid while standing beside it [the machinery] without doing any work. Well, it is obvious that even the 10 percent [production] which leaves this factory cannot be sold to the people at the normal-official price. That factory has to maintain itself, and somehow it is led into corruption while doing its tasks. Well, there is no war; we should certainly make these factories operational. I am saying this now, and I have said this before in my rhetoric, and if the people did not agree with me, they would not have voted for me.

You, the Majlis deputies, who have approved of me and asked me to accept this responsibility, would not have done so if you had not wanted it. You have voted and approved of my word. We have to follow this question,—what we should do, urgently, is solve the problems. Of course as I have said, our word is the safeguard of the revolution's ideals. We should protect these limits, no matter the costs, and apart from that, we must do something so that the factories begin to operate.

Our factories have a capacity for taking around $8-9 billion of foreign materials and alongside that they will absorb perhaps $40 to 50 billion perhaps from domestic materials, if so much foreign material is given to them. The extra profit this would give us, the employment it creates, and the export possibilities this will bring will open the path for us. We can follow these works.

Agriculturally, our country is very dry. Many people know this, perhaps some don't know—our country in comparison with Holland, or Germany, or France, or even a country like Turkey, doesn't have enough rain for us to be able to cultivate everywhere. The majority of our land has the annual average rain of around 50 to 100 mm. Some places, of course, like Mazandaran and Gilan and other parts have too much, but every country has an average.

Because our country is large, our population is still a lot smaller than its capacity, and our agriculture has the capability to feed our nation and to feed our cattle. Our country's fishing is really rich. Our friends say that within the first 5 years, you can catch 700,000 tonnes of fish. The ugly regime of Pahlavi did not even catch 30,000 tonnes; or even 50,000 tonnes of fish in total. This is the way it was. He [the shah] was giving away oil and was bringing in French veal to give to the people. This was very bad and destructive. We should catch and give to people the fish that reproduce, die, get destroyed, and metamorphose into fossils in the sea in ancient history. [sentence as heard]

These things were prepared during the previous government. This is what they did during the war, and I enter now and many of the base works have been done in industries, agriculture, roads, fishing, and forestry. They have prepared the 5-year program, and with the help of

the Majlis and our brothers and sisters of our nation we will be able to implement this, God willing.

Our martyrs did not lose their lives so that we should fight all the time. They lost their lives for this Constitution, the Constitution that calls for political, economic, and cultural independence. Economic independence is among the ideals of all of us. These are the ways toward economic independence. If anyone else knows of other ways, he should step forward and say it.

In any case, our obligation is to do our utmost toward the implementation of the Constitution in every dimension. We begin the jobs and expect our people to cooperate, be patient, give us time, and we ourselves will bring them up to date with what has been done and tell them of the problems and issues in hand.

Thank God we have a very good position now. Our nation is solid at present. When I look at the previous government, and at the view of the future that I see now, I feel sorry for the previous government that has not had these things. Now a complete solidarity can be felt in Majlis and among other friends outside [as heard]. God willing, the Majlis will keep this, and us,—all of us.

The people are quite aware. The pressure that existed during the time of the war does not exist anymore. A number of people outside the country—our enemies, governments, or individuals—all thought this regime was going to fall, and they were waiting for His Eminence the imam, to leave us so they could begin their work. Now they are all hopeless and unhappy and have accepted the miserable conditions that they have created for themselves.

Now there is a race going on for cooperation with us. Of course we will not be deceived by these races. Our eyes are open, and we will choose what is best for us and what is for the good of the revolution. The situation has changed in comparison with the past. Now it is possible to work more, necessitating our colleagues to get ready and move. Opportunities exist for the ones who have stayed away, for whatever reason. The people who are abroad and are frightened to come should know that if they come with good intentions, ready to serve and even to live a healthy life in their country, even if they do not want to serve [the country], their rights are protected. We have sworn to safeguard the rights of the nation apart from the traitors.

Among the principles of my work is to have social observations in my programs as well as in my plans to utilize manpower. I most certainly do not like to choose someone to assist me, or to reject him, based on reasons pertaining to his gang or political affiliation. It is possible that sometimes one is not able to choose between two healthy personalities, and must make a choice, but not for the reasons that this person was connected to this gang or that gang. Anyway, no one should stay away. There is so much work to be done in the country, and we need these Hezbollah forces and honest persons, and if we all work we still need to get help from abroad—in particular from the Iranian manpower that exists abroad and is willing to come and cooperate with us in various sections.

From the dear families of the martyrs...[changes thought] We have a number of representatives from the families of the martyrs in the Majlis. They are the dearest capitals of this country, the self-sacrificing devotes [the disabled], to whom, because of our engagements we have not been able to pay the attention they deserve. Our dear POW's—in particular, the brave ones who are captives in Iraqi prisons and have kept the dignity of Islam. The MIA's—for the ones who are alive, their connections with their families are cut off, and for the ones who are martyred, we sincerely thank their families.

We think you are right, you dear ones, the familes of martyrs, POW's, MIA's the dear soul of the martyrs. We will continue your path. We will not let anything else take place in this country but what you wanted. You followed these ideals with your conscience and your blood, and we will follow this with our every breath and step till we join you.

I sincerely thank the foreign guests, His Excellency, Pakistani Foreign Minister, our guest, and the honorable ambassadors, and all brother and sister officials who have taken part from various palaces and also the the honorable family of the leadership. I thank the Majlis deputies who entertained us with such warmth and kindness, and the honorable speaker of the Majlis.

I hope that we have left behind a solid and active and happy Majlis together with the government and the government together with the Majlis and all of us under the shadow of the leadership to remain so. [participants chant]

Mohammad Hashemi Reinstated as Broadcasting Chief

LD2408110789 Tehran IRNA in English
1058 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—Mohammad Hashemi Thursday was reinstated as the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) by leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

In a letter, Khamene'i called on the radio and television chief to use the best methods to spread the message of Islam and refrain from airing any program that may have a corrupting influence. "My strong advice is to give importance to youth and young adults programs which must be fundamentally strong (in terms of content) and presented in an attractive, healthy and joyful way," he said.

The appointment came following the reforms in the Constitution which were approved in the July 28 referendum, giving the leader the authority to choose the head of the IRIB. Hashemi has headed the organization since 1981.

Khamene'i stressed that the IRIB should be "on the offensive" in confronting foreign propaganda and was responsible for the intellectual, cultural and political growth of the nation. The leader also called on Hashemi to employ intelligent, committed, and sincere individuals and create a research center to monitor and study the people's opinion of programs.

'Text' of Khamene'i Edict

LD2408143989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in an edict today, appointed Mohammad Hashemi as the head of the Voice and Vision organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] [Hashemi is Hashemi-Rafsanjani's brother]. The text of the eddict is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Mohammad Hashemi, in accordance with Article 110 of the Constitution, I appoint Your Excellency, who are committed and have a long record in managing the huge and crucial system of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, as the head of that organization. I deem it necessary to point out that this sensitive and highly important system, which was regarded by our great imam as a university broader than the entire area of the country and the nation, is in charge of creating the basis for intellectual development, cultural and political growth, publicizing Islam, and confronting propaganda conspiracies. Its managers, staff, producers and presenters should pay attention to the four permanent principles; they are, the message, art, selection of the language style and appropriate subjects, while avoiding bad influence.

In all programs, with such a diversity of subjects, the main principle is to serve the objectives of Islam and the revolution. The Voice and Vision should, through the presentation of our original, pure and rich culture, ideas, and art, promote and strengthen the ideological and practical independence of Iran, the systems of the Islamic Republic, and the principle of neither East nor West. It should adopt a confrontational posture in the face of alien and imposed culture, art and ideology. By adopting the best methods and the most eloquent language, it should cleanse the dust of isolation and alienation from the face of Islam's deep concept and brilliant facts of the Koran. It should place at the disposal of the Muslim nations all over the world the souvenir that they expect to receive from the system of the Islamic Republic. It is obvious that to meet the stated objectives we need thoughtful, committed, and sincere colleagues, a center for research and studies, and constant evaluation and supervision of productions and broadcasting to enable you first to upgrade the system scientifically and, second, to avoid mistakes and bias in the course of operations.

Another duty is the technical and financial boosting of the system, which you should pursue by planning. I stress the importance of airing programs for the youths and teenagers, which in addition to having a sound foundation, should be interesting, healthy, and joyful. In presenting and broadcasting sound and pictures it is necessary to avoid any subject that has a bad influence on their thinking and behaviour so that this significant mass medium does not become a means of corruption and deviation.

It is necessary to prepare a draft bill for operating the Voice and Vision of the IRI as soon as possible and to submit it to the government and the Islamic Majlis to pass through the endorsement procedure. I beseech almighty God to grant success upon Your Excellency in properly executing this highly significant and effective duty.

[Signed] Seyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 24 August 89

Musavi Bids Farewell to Governors General

LD2308171989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Governors general from all over the country presented a plaque to Mir Hoseyn Musavi in appreciation for his services during his 8-year tenure with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In ceremonies this afternoon Mir Hoseyn Musavi bid farewell to the governors general from all over the country. Interior Minister Mohtashami and deputy ministers of that ministry were also present. Firstly, Minister of Interior Mohtashemi and Mortaza Haji, governor general of Mazanderan, representing all governors general, thanked Mir Hoseyn Musavi for his services.

Then, in remarks, Musavi referred to the role of the Interior Ministry in maintaining the security and running the affairs of the people throughout the Islamic homeland. He also thanked all the governors general and Interior Ministry personnel for their services.

Musavi said: It is a cause for the government serving the deprived people to feel proud that during the past 8 years it was continuously an object for expression of anger by the United States and its lackies.

He added: The Interior Ministry shouldered a heavy responsibility during the government's 8-year service. Despite limited resources the governors general achieved good success because of their love and commitment to the revolution.

At the end of the ceremonies Musavi handed over letters of appreciation to the deputy ministers of interior as well as to the governors general.

Habibi Chairs 23 Aug Cabinet Meeting

LD2308205689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Today's Cabinet meeting was chaired by Habibi, first deputy of the president. Our correspondent reports: In this meeting the draft bill for contractual employment for volunteers in the civil service was discussed and it was decided that government departments and bodies should make known their employment needs while signing contracts with volunteers for contractual service. In this draft bill it has also been forecast that the Selfless Devotees of the Islamic Revolution who wish to be employed on this basis, in government departments, will be evaluated according to their academic qualifications. [passage omitted]

At the close of this session, Habibi, presidential first deputy, in connection with the programs prepared for Government Week, which will start from 24 August and continue to 30 August which is the anniversary of the martyrdom of martyrs Bohanor and Raja'i, said:

[Begin Habibi recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful—we had a Cabinet session today, and, on the eve of Government Week, we remembered the dear and great martyrs of that week—dear martyr president Raja'i and our dear martyr Bahonar, who always worked alongside each other as students and (?served the mentor of Islam)—God willing we shall be following the same path. We began the session by remembering these dear ones. The program for Government Week, God willing, this year, as the last year of the term that the Cabinet, the Cabinet which was led by Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi, during the past 8 years the program will continue and our dear brothers—that is the collective of the (?relevant) government departments—will tell our dear people on whatever they have achieved during these years and whatever they have carried out. They will also tell the people about what has gone into the 5-year plan and such issues. There are some general plans which, in all likelihood... [changes thought] parts of which will be announced to the people in accordacne with the order Musavi deems best, as the Cabinet's [word indistinct] program. Probably, His Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani will also tell the people on future programs—if it is thought necessary. The ministers, too—some of the departments, too—will tell people about certain points during that week. [end recording]

Further on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Policy Briefing

LD2308121889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has met with the foreign minister and his deputies, as well as Foreign Ministry officials and the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassadors and envoys abroad. Mr Rafsanjani stressed the necessity of maintaining the permanent objectives and principles of the revolution. He further rejected the enemy definition of change from the new course which our country is probably about to begin.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Our wishes and aspirations, which the imam defined in the most supreme manner, are not issues to which Muslims in any circumstances can turn a blind eye. He added: There is no doubt that at different times different conditions can arise, which can influence events, but such influence on a revolution with characteristics such as ours certainly applies to tactics and not to principles.

He then explained that we may possibly be set on a new course in our country's history, stating: We are not sure that the war has ended. We cannot consider the war as finished; however, it seems very remote that Iraq, in view of the unsuitable conditions in that country, might be thinking about resuming the war. He further said: The instigators of Iraq have also not benefited from the war and its continuation, while the others no are longer prepared to blindly obey their orders.

Addressing those present, the president stated: The revolution will follow its objectives in its new course, in a more active and dynamic manner. Therefore, in view of the fact that we see ourselves as having a mission in the world, we must actively face issues without any reactive behavior. He said: We oppose illegitimate domination in the same way that we oppose any exploitation and injustice prevailing in existing relations within as well as among various countries. Therefore, we must declare our stances and our message on the world stage and struggle against domination and aggression, within the accepted frameworks and according to international norms and without interference in others' internal affairs.

In another part of his speech, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the fact that power struggle, which is a product of Western mentality, has no place in the dictionary of our Islamic culture. He stated: What we have in our country—and we are keen to spread it to give growth to ideas and thoughts—is different preferences and currents of thought, not a power struggle. Therefore, something like a struggle over power and government does not exist in our country.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed our country's ambassadors and diplomatic envoys abroad, stating: Among the necessary work that you must carry out is that you should provide the foreign media with analytical and research articles to familiarize them with such realities.

In another part of his speech, he pointed to the existing harmony in relations among the three branches, stating: Fortunately, amendments to the Constitution put an end to problems of lack of coordination in the country's executive organs, by providing the background for the officials' activities and their coordination. He then pointed to the enemies' disappointment, stating: We must be sure that within the country we face no political problem. The massive presence of people in various events and occasions—such as the demise of the Imam

and the allegiance with the leader, which itself disappointed the enemies while inspiring hope in friends—are the best manifestations of this reality that no alternative can exist in the country.

The present then pointed to the principle of attention to economic affairs, stating: the foundations for economic activity and dynamism do exist inside the country. We hope that, through implementing reforms, we can resolve people's economic problems within an acceptable period of time, thereby reaching an acceptable average level.

He added: In our new course, we are prepared to establish friendly relations with all countries—except two or three—who have discarded the idea of relations based on plundering.

The president went on to stress the importance of necessary training for our country's ambassadors and diplomatic envoys, stating: Lack of coordination should not, from now on, have any place in our embassies and diplomatic legations abroad. It is the responsibility of all ministries and internal organizations, as well as all the staff and associates of diplomatic legations, to be in harmony with the ambassadors in resolving the issues, while moving in the direction of their policies.

He concluded by expressing hope that the Islamic revolution will be able—after the conclusion of the present decade—to present to the world its practical and material achievements as well.

According to the report, Foreign Minister Velayati presented a short report at the meeting in connection with the gathering of heads of our country's diplomatic legations in Tehran.

Official Critical of French Role in Lebanon

LD2308181489 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Imposing military conditions on Lebanon is neither in the interest of people in Lebanon nor in the Middle East, a senior Iranian official said Wednesday.

Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, deputy foreign minister for Arab and African affairs, told a press conference here that the Lebanese people should be given an opportunity to decide on their own fate and government.

He termed the dispatch of French forces to Lebanon as a "mere pretext for a military intervention in that country backed by the global arrogance."

Sheykholeslam said the unity of Lebanese nationalist and Islamic groups led to the announcement of readiness by Christian army commander General Michel 'Awn to make peaced with them.

The deputy minister reiterated that all agreements in principles reached by Lebanese Islamic and nationalist groups in Tehran and Damascus had served to remove their differences and direct them towards their joint enemy.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Lebanese Crisis

NC2408085289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister for Arab- African affairs, attended a news conference yesterday afternoon and spoke about the situation of the belligerent forces in Lebanon.

The deputy foreign minister for Arab-African affairs noted that all the arrogant-Zionist forces, regional reactionary elements, and Saddam's Ba'thist-Zionist forces are trying to resist the progressive national and Islamic forces of Lebanon and deprive them of the just and legal rights in which all those who endorse democracy believe. He added: Islamic and national forces are being confronted in this struggle, which we are witnessing today in the region, especially in the occupied territories of Palestine and in Lebanon. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes its duty is to carry out the necessary resistance against the enemies in Lebanon under the current circumstances and to strengthen the Islamic and national forces.

The deputy foreign minister for Arab-African affairs added: So far, effective and major steps have been taken toward unifying Lebanon's national and Islamic forces against their enemies, who are, first and foremost, the Zionist regime, the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime, the Phalangists, and Michel 'Awn. The Tehran-Damascus statement is a manifestation of the unity of all national and Islamic forces in Lebanon, he said.

Referring to the results of the Tehran and Damascus conference attended by all Lebanon's national and Islamic forces, the deputy foreign minister for Arab-African affairs said: This was a turning point on the Lebanese scene and in our political contacts with the Lebanese nation—a turning point which saw the unification of Lebanon's national and Islamic parties. Immediately after this, the Security Council realized the danger that threatened the confronting side and called for a cease-fire. The confronting side accepted the cease-fire declaration. Lebanon's national and Islamic groups are prepared to carry out talks with the confronting side—that is, with Michel 'Awn.

Pointing out that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not believe at all in militarizing Lebanon, the deputy foreign minister for Arab-African affairs said: We believe in talks between the belligerent groups in Lebanon and that elections can determine the fate of the Lebanese people.

Referring to the fact that for a decade now Islam has been called a determining factor on the international and regional scenes, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam stated: We see this clearly in Lebanon and Palestine, and we see that other ideologies have lost their luster of liberation.

Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam added: The more Lebanon moves toward militarization, the more the presence of foreign forces which supply arms will increase in Lebanon; this is not to the benefit of the Lebanese people. We prefer to achieve an outcome through talks acceptable to the belligerents.

In conclusion, the deputy foreign minister for Arab-African affairs pointed out: Lebanon's unity is the major issue. We are not against the Christians or any Lebanese. He stated: Lebanon's division is not to the benefit of any Lebanese, and we are trying to work with all groups. It is specifically the Maronite group that sees the continuation of its life and domination in Lebanon as contingent on its being strengthened by foreign powers. But actually, it is the foreign elements who are drawing Lebanon toward the fire. Lebanon's problems should be solved through peaceful coexistence. If Michel 'Awn observes the cease-fire, the national and Islamic forces will also observe it.

Moscow Seeks 'Rescue' From Afghanistan

LD2308104789 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Tehran can suggest dialog between Iran, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the Afghan mujahidin to solve the Afghan issue, the TEHRAN TIMES said Wednesday.

The daily's editorial noted however that the Foreign Ministry should not rush into such a meeting without first "seeing to it that there is at least a semblance of unity among the mujahidin."

It referred to the Takhar incident in which 30 Afghan mujahidin alliance based in Pakistan, was responsible. [sentence as received]

"To hold any meeting... for the future well being of the entire Afghan people, when the Afghan groups representing them are themselves not in agreement, will not ensure that the Afghan people will be rightly or justly served," the paper stressed.

"Before any such meetings or full-scale conferences are held, it will be well to see that the two major Afghan groups—the Iran- based 8-party alliance and the Peshawar-based 7-party alliance close ranks."

The English-language daily also noted that the Soviet Union, after the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan, "is anxious to see that the Afghan situation is confined within its borders." "The Soviets aim to avoid negotiations which will involve the United States of America.

"In order to do this, Moscow looks towards Tehran to use its influence over the mujahidin and with Pakistan and thus rescue Moscow from being embroiled in further complexities over Afghan issues.

"What they hope Tehran can do is to prevent an emergence of a completely Western-style government in future Afghanistan," the paper believed.

Iran's support for the mujahidin is an irreversible and fundamental part of its foreign policy, the paper reiterated and added that "Tehran will not be suddenly willing to disrupt its new warm relations with the Soviet Union."

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on POW'S Release

LD2408115589 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—Iraq's withdrawal from Iranian territory is still the main stumbling block hindering the exchange of war prisoners and the final settlement of the Iraqi war, an Iranian Foreign Ministry stressed. [sentence as received]

Commenting on a newspaper commentary, expressing the need to give priority to the fate of POW'S, a ministry spokesman said this was not the government's position. "Articles in the Iranian press do not necessarily reflect the official stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said.

The spokesman added that the POW's could go home and other points of Resolution 598 could be implemented when Iraqi forces retreat from Iranian territory. "Iran believes if the Iraqi regime had given a principled response to the U.N. secretary general's proposals in the peace negotiations during the past year, the prisoners would all have rejoined their families by now."

In an editorial Wednesday [23 August], KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said other issues between the two countries "though equally important, are not as sensitive as the POW issue."

The paper printed an explanation Thursday that it did not want to convey that the POW issue was more important. "By taking a second look at the ending sentence of the viewpoint, it would become clear that that was not what was intended to be conveyed to the readers," the daily said.

The conclusion of the editorial said "All parties related to the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations should, as a matter of principle, give the POW problem its right place on the priority agenda."

Shamkhani Honors Observers, Condemns Iraq

LD2408090689 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, [date as received] IRNA—Head of the UNIIMOG [UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group] forces in Iran Major General Slavko Jovic was presented a memorial plaque on the occasion of the first anniversary of the ceasefire in the Iraqi war.

The award was presented by acting commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) 'Ali Shamkhani who expressed appreciation for the year-long efforts of the UNIIMOG forces in Iran.

In the ceremony attended by high-ranking military officials Shamkhani referred to Iraqi obstruction of peace talks, its disrespect for international regulations and refusal to withdraw from Iranian territories.

The IRGC commander said a year after the acceptance of ceasefire some of Iranian territory were still under the control of the Iraqi forces.

Quoting the United Nations reports he said in the past year Iraq has had more than 6,100 military movements which proves falsity of its peace-loving gestures.

He added Iraq through military maneuvers in a large area near the cesefire line, establishing new fortifications was endangering the truce.

He stressed that the only way for establishment of peace was the full implementation of U.N. Resolution 598.

Nepal

Death Sentence for Crimes Against State Abolished

BK2108024289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0150 GMT 21 Aug 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 21 (AFP)—The Nepalese Parliament has adopted amendments abolishing the death sentence for crimes against the state and curtailing district authorities' powers of arrest and detention.

The amendments to the 1961 Security Act, Jail Act and State Offences Crime and Punishment Act reduce the maximum sentence for crimes against the state from capital punishment to life imprisonment. The changes, passed by the National Panchayat Friday [18 August], also cut the sentence for security offences from life in jail to 10 years.

The Security Act amendments make the chief district officer (CDO)—charged with maintaining law and order through district police—more accountable to local courts and the central government. CDO's could previously work outside the judiciary in ordering arrests and detentions and their wide-ranging powers were allegedly responsible for the detention of people for years without trial.

Analysts said the government-filed amendments were aimed at countering criticism of Nepal's stringent security laws and allegations of human rights violations.

Although the changes were favourably received, there has been strong criticism of another amendment, still before Parliament, proposing up to two-years in jail for unsubstantiated public attacks on the government.

Under the Security Act amendments, the CDO must inform the local court of any arrest within 24 hours.

Previously allowed to hold detainees for an unlimited period, CDO's can now only keep a person in custody for up to 90 days. This can be extended twice by 90 days each, but only with approval of the zonal commissioner and Home Ministry. If a CDO wishes to detain a person for more than nine months to conduct investigations, he must have the consent of a judicial advisory committee to be set up by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the amendments said.

The one-man courts set up by the zonal commissioner to hear cases involving crimes against the state have been abolished by the amendment and such offences can now only be heard by zonal courts headed by a zonal judge.

Nepal is divided into 75 districts within 14 zones headed by commissioners appointed by King Birendra. Each commissioner has an average of five districts under his jurisdiction.

Analysts said the government of Prime Minister Marich Man Shrestha was trying to silence criticism fuelled by a report by the London-based Amnesty International group alleging human rights violations in Nepal. The report claimed there were some 200 political prisoners and prisoners of conscience being held in various jails in Nepal and charged that their detentions had been extended extra-legally.

Under the amendments, zonal judges must visit jails in their jurisdiction each year and report the findings to the chief justice. Anyone found detained without due process can now be immediately freed at the zonal judges' request.

Jurists and lawyers noted that the adoption of the amendments had allowed the government to legitimize the 1961 Security Act, which had never been approved by the legislature. They said however that the changes were a major step towards improving the rule of law in Nepal.

Some analysts said the amendments were also prompted by the case of former Foreign Minister Rishikesh Shah, who faces charges under the Security Act for remarks he allegedly made against the state while in India in April. Mr. Shah, who is currently out on bail, faced the death sentence under the unamended act and his case had led to sharp criticism of the Nepalese legal system among lawyers in India.

The amendment to the Press and Publication Act, introduced recently by state Communication Minister Kamal Thapa, has meanwhile prompted wide criticism from journalists, lawyers and intellectuals. It proposes a maximum two-year jail sentence for anybody found to have criticized the government without proof in an attempt to malign the administration.

Critics of the amendment consider it to be a draconian step which runs counter to the press freedoms and publication rights guaranteed under the Nepalese Constitution.

Pakistan

President, Bhutto Disagree on Armed Forces Head

BK2408102289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 24 (AFP)—Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey will head the Armed Forces until November 1991 despite Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's dismissal of him, sources close to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said here Thursday [24 August].

"We reiterate our position on Admiral Sirohey's tenure" as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) "which was stated on August 6. We have nothing to add to that," one of them said, commenting on an interview with Ms. Bhutto published here Wednesday by THE NATION daily.

Ms. Bhutto told THE NATION that Adm. Sirohey's term as the JCSC chairman expired on August 14, according to the interpretation of the Constitution by the Defence Ministry, whose portfolio she holds.

The president's office issued a clarification on August 6 following a press report on Adm. Sirohey's retirement.

A spokesman said then that the report was "incorrect and based on misunderstanding," adding that under the Constitution, the president has the power to appoint the JCSC chairman and the chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

"It was in the exercise of this discretionary power that the president was pleased to appoint Admiral Sirohey as JCSC chairman with effect from November 10, 1988," the spokesman said, adding: "the post of the JCSC chairman is an ensured appointment" for "a period of three years."

THE NATION said that Ms. Bhutto, when asked whether she and Mr. Ishaq Khan disagreed over Adm. Sirohey's tenure, said: "I will not comment on the issue other than to say that there is a Constitution which describes the rights of everyone and there are courts to which the aggrieved parties can refer."

On Thursday, military officials and Ms. Bhutto's entourage were not available to comment on Mr. Ishaq Khan's position.

Despite the title, the JCSC chairman is considered less powerful in the Pakistani military hierarchy than the Army chief of staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg.

Militia Clashes With Tribespeople; 6 Killed

BK2408004589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1708 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 23 (AFP)—Pakistani militiamen killed six tribespeople, including a woman, and arrested 20 others in a clash near the Afghan border Wednesday, informed sources said.

The incident occurred when militiamen started erecting a checkpoint in Jabha village of Khyber Tribal District, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of here.

The sources said six tribespeople were killed and 20 arrested but local authorities said only two were killed.

Three militiamen of the Frontier Constabulary were also injured during the clash in which the tribespeople used rocket launchers, the sources said. The militiamen seized 23 rifles.

The local authorities said the checkpoint was being built to restrict the smuggling of heroin, hashish and other contraband items from Afghanistan into Pakistan.

The tribal areas on Pakistan's northwestern border with Afghanistan have semi-autonomous status. The Moslem Pushtun tribes there live according to their own traditions and laws. Most tribesmen carry weapons with them.

Arrest of Embassy Employee in Delhi Protested

BK2308155989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Niaz A. Naik, the Pakistani ambassador to India, called on Indian Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh in New Delhi yesterday and lodged a strong protest with him over the arrest, detention, and harassment of Abdul Shakoor, a Pakistan Embassy employee. Several Indian newspapers have published an identical report that claims the employee was arrested by Delhi police while receiving some secret documents on Monday [21 August]. The report as published by Indian newspapers is totally incorrect. The Pakistani ambassador said that Abdul Shakoor was not involved in any undesirable activity and that he has been unjustifiably arrested without any reason. He expressed regret at the unwarranted harassment of a Pakistani official by Indian authorities, saying that it was done at a time when the Government of Pakistan is actively and sincerely making efforts to improve relations with India.

Niaz A. Naik told Radio Pakistan's Delhi correspondent that the Indian security authorities arrested the Pakistani employee when he got off a bus while returning to the embassy after shopping. Later, the Indian security authorities brought an Indian official, who, the authorities said, allegedly sold official secrets to Abdul Shakoor. Abdul Shakoor was taken to the police station, a body search was conducted, and he was interrogated. Nothing was recovered from him.

Maldivian Foreign Minister Arrives 23 Aug

BK2308065589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The Maldivian foreign minister, Fathullah Jameel, arrived in Islamabad this morning on a day's visit to Pakistan.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, the Maldivian foreign minister said he would hold talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, on matters that will be considered at the forthcoming summit of the nonaligned countries and at the UN General Assembly.

Fathullah Jameel said his visit to Pakistan is part of the tour to the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC—in which means to promote regional cooperation and various international issues will be discussed. He said that he would also have consultations with the Pakistani leaders on increasing cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan and Maldives are members of the Islamic Conference Organization, and they have identical views on several political and economic issues.

On his arrival in Islamabad, the Maldivian foreign minister was welcomed by Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Meets With Bhutto

BK2308161489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathullah Jameel called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today. The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the cordial relations between the two brotherly countries. Views were also exchanged on reactivating the process of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] and making it effective. In this context, the Maldivian foreign minister highly commended Benazir Bhutto's efforts as chairperson of the SAARC toward convening early the ministerial conference of the organization. The Maldivian foreign minister apprised the prime minister of the efforts being made by his country to ensure the security of small countries.

Earlier today, Fathullah Jameel called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad to exchange views on bilateral matters and the regional situation. SAARC activities were also reviewed during the talks.

U.S. Senator Reaffirms Aid to Afghan Rebels

BK2408032289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The chairman of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Claiborne Pell, has said his country will continue assistance to Afghan mujahidin until they attain success in their war against the Kabul regime. Speaking at a news conference in Islamabad yesterday at the end of his visit to Pakistan, he said under the prevailing conditions in Afghanistan, the most important thing his country can do is to continue its assistance to Afghanistan.

Senator Pell lauded Pakistan for providing assistance on humanitarian grounds to Afghan refugees to mitigate their difficulties. He paid glowing tributes to Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto for taking bold steps to strengthen democracy in the country. He said the United States will support the democratic process in Pakistan. The restoration of democracy in Pakistan has been appreciated very much in the United States.

In reply to a question on Pakistan's atomic program, the chairman of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee has said he is satisfied with Pakistan's assurance not to make an atom bomb.

In reply to another question, he said if the countries of the region adopt a nuclear nonproliferation program, India will have to adhere to it.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Offers New Proposals on Indian Pullout

BK2308153089 Colombo International Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] President R. Premadasa has issued a statement on the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] from Sri Lanka.

The statement reads: Last week I stated that the New Delhi proposals needed further revision. Such a revision was necessary to ensure that there is not the slightest undermining of the sovereignty of Sri Lanka.

I also indicated that we should take into consideration the realities of the situation on the north and the east and take meaningful steps to reestablish a civil administration there. The safety and and security of all sections of the people have to be ensured. Arrangements for the accelerated withdrawal of the Indian Armed Forces have to be made.

I have accordingly revised the New Delhi proposals in line with the objectives mentioned. I have communicated our decisions to the Indian Government.

I have sought especially to ensure that our country's sovereignty is recognized, safeguarded and maintained while the withdrawal of the IPKF proceeds on an accelerated basis.

At the same time, I have endeavored to provide the fullest opportunity for the [word indistinct] of all ethnic and political groups to be met and their views represented in the arrangements that are being set up. This will ensure the realization of our objective of safety and security for all and an early restoration of peace and normalcy.

I am convinced that it is only with the full and unfettered participation of all our people that a permanent and lasting peace could be achieved.

9 Policemen Killed; Overnight Death Toll 32

BK2308101289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 23 (AFP)—Gunmen assassinated a senior police officer here and killed eight policemen elsewhere in Sri Lanka Wednesday, boosting the overnight death toll in continuing political violence to 32, officials said.

A.C. Shabdeen, assistant superintendent of police, was gunned down in Colombo's busy commercial area of Maradana, an official spokesman said, adding that the victim was a former bodyguard of a ruling party politician.

A military spokesman said the anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) was suspected of involvement. No one claimed responsiblity for the murder.

Suspected JVP men ambushed a police patrol in southern Meegahatenna village Wednesday, killing eight constables. Gunmen fired small arms at the police vehicle, the spokesman said.

Gunmen Kill 19, Wound 25 in Attack on Harbor

BK2408095489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0934 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 24 (AFP)—Gunmen opened fire at a small fishery harbour in southern Sri Lanka, killing 19 people and wounding 25, residents said Thursday.

Men dressed in military-style uniforms stormed the port late Wednesday [23 August] as fishermen prepared to go out to sea, residents contacted by telephone said.

A military spokesman here confirmed that there had been shooting at the harbour, but said he had no details. An investigation was under way, he added.

Residents said burnt bodies of at least seven people, probably victims of the harbour attack, were found at the nearby coastal village of Aluthgoda on Thursday.

The Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (People's Liberation Front) has called for a token strike in the area Thursday to protest the killings which it alleged had been carried out by troops, residents said.

The region is a stronghold of the rebel group which is leading a violent campaign to overthrow the government.

Minister Says JVP Killed 890 in 1 Month

BK2408081789 Hong Kong AFP in English 0800 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 24 (AFP)—Anti-government militants were responsible for the deaths of 890 people, including 31 policemen and 18 soldiers, during the month ending August 15, a senior minister told Parliament Thursday.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vincent Perera said subversives, an official term for the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), stole 143 firearms from civilians and security forces during the same period.

"The seriousness of the security situation can be gauged by highlighting some of the subversives' acts," Mr. Prerera said moving a resolution to extend a state of emergency by a further month.

His statement came a day after 23 people died in continuing political violence across Sri Lanka, military officials here said Thursday.

Emergency rule which gives sweeping powers to security forces to arrest and detain suspects was first imposed on June 20 as rebels stepped up attacks on security forces and staged workstoppages.

"These same militants are responsible for the progressive escalation of political killings, murder of civilians and for other acts of violence and sabotage," Mr. Perera said.

"The government is making every effort to restore peace and harmony very soon," he added, urging all MP's [members of Parliament] to approve extending the state of emergency. A vote is to be taken Friday after a two-day debate.

The minister's figures did not include people killed by security forces during their operations.

Over 150 people were killed when troops and police opened fire to break up anti-Indian and anti-government demonstrations on July 29, the second anniversary of an Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

The JVP is violently opposed to the 1987 peace pact under which India has some 43,000 troops in Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated north-east.

The Sinhalese militant JVP led a bloody insurrection in 1971 which was put down by the government with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.